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A student being escorted out of Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Arkansas, after a counseling session to help her deal with the killings.

Deadly School Attack Stuns Arkansas City

One Suspect, 13, 'Had a Lot of Killing to Do'

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

Residents of the small Arkansas city of Jonesboro were struggling Wednesday with the shock of the bloody ambush killings of four young students and a teacher by a 13-year-old boy and his 11-year-old cousin outside a middle school.

It was the fourth multiple shooting in less than six months at an American school by assailants under age 17, and provoked immediate debate about the pervasiveness of guns in American homes, the influence of violence in the mass media, and the safety of schools.

President Bill Clinton, a former Arkansas governor, took time from his Africa visit to deplore the shooting and call for an urgent examination of ways to prevent future incidents.

In the carnage reportedly provoked by difficulties with a girlfriend, 10 other students and a teacher were wounded when they left the one-story school Tuesday after a fire alarm was sounded. Six were still hospitalized Wednesday, one in critical condition.

"I've been in this for a long time," said Sheriff Dale Haas. "This is the worst thing I have ever seen."

Amber Vanoven, an 11-year-old student, said, "I saw my best friend, Natalie Brooks, get killed, shot in the head twice."

The authorities did not release the boys' names.

The police detained the boys, who wore hunting-style camouflage clothing and carried both handguns and rifles, without resistance. They were expected to be charged with five capital counts of murder.

But because both are under age 14, Arkansas law stipulates that they cannot be held beyond their 21st birthdays, even if found guilty of the crimes. Authorities were examining whether federal laws with stiffer penalties might apply.

The victims at Westside Middle School in Jonesboro were three 12-year-old girls, an 11-year-old girl, and a 32-year-old English teacher who witnesses said was shot trying to shield a girl.

"We all walked outside and they started shooting," Amber Vanoven said. "I saw a teacher step in front of someone else and get shot."

Jennifer Gookin, a teacher's aide, said, "There were people lying everywhere. Blood was everywhere."

All the victims were females, except a boy who was wounded.

The 13-year-old boy had warned friends that he "had a lot of killing to do" because a girlfriend had dropped him, according to a classmate identified by a local newspaper as Jamie Clevenger. Another student, Melinda Hennessy, said, "He told us that tomorrow you will find out if you live or die."

The school principal, Karen Cirtner, said Wednesday that the two boys were

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Clinton Shares in Blame For Rwandan Genocide

In Kigali, He Says World Reacted Too Slowly

By John F. Harris
Washington Post Service

KIGALI, Rwanda — Four years ago this spring, when Rwanda erupted in bloodshed, Clinton administration officials resisted appeals for intervention and spent weeks debating whether the mass killings carried out by Hutu extremists should properly be called a "genocide."

On Wednesday, President Bill Clinton came here and acknowledged that the answer should have been simple. In 90 days, as many as a million people died in what Mr. Clinton called the most rapid "slaughter in this blood-filled century we are about to leave." It was a tragedy, he added, for which the United States and other members of the international community must share blame.

"We did not act quickly enough after the killing began," Mr. Clinton said. "We did not immediately call these crimes by their rightful name: genocide."

Mr. Clinton's speech, during an emotionally pitched three-hour stop in the Rwandan capital, came after he and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, listened to a cascade of painful recollections from survivors of the campaign to exterminate Rwanda's Tutsi minority. There was the Catholic relief worker

who suffered the murder of her parents and four siblings, witnessed the rape of a friend by 10 soldiers, and saved herself by hiding for several days in a neighbor's home, huddling under a chair covered by a pile of clothes.

There was the priest who said he sometimes felt guilty about being alive when so many family members and friends died.

And there was Venuste Karasira, who told Mr. Clinton that when the killing

U.S. is embracing a new generation of African leaders. Page 6.

began in April 1994, he joined about 4,000 others who fled to a local college, confident that United Nations peacekeeping soldiers there would protect them. But when the UN troops departed, he was one of only 400 left alive after a gun and machete rampage.

"I lost my right hand," Mr. Karasira said. "We died because we were left by the United Nations soldiers."

Mr. Clinton swallowed, and tensed the muscles on the side of his face. But

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11 Countries Approved for Euro

In a Historic Moment for EU, Common Currency Moves Closer

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — Crossing a historic hurdle in the construction of Europe, 11 countries were declared fit on Wednesday to join a single currency beginning next January after years of efforts to slash deficits, curb inflation and chip away at public debts.

The recommendations by both the European Union's executive body and its central bankers carried blunt warnings, however, that much work remains to be done before the European Union's audacious experiment can be assured of success. Many countries have been accused of using creative accounting to squeeze into the single currency criteria for Economic and Monetary Union.

The European Commission nonetheless said that "very positive" economic fundamentals indicated that the venture would be a success, holding out the prospect of stable, inflation-free growth and establishing a currency to rival the U.S. dollar.

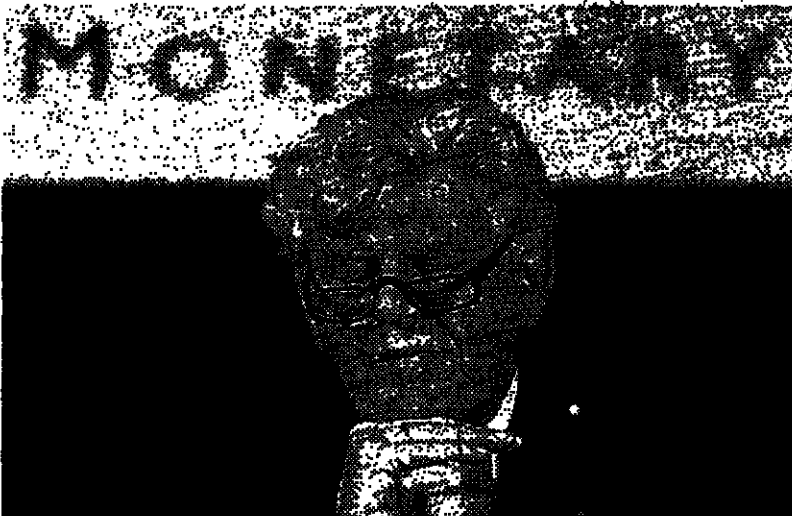
The commission recommended that Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain join the currency union. Britain and Denmark have decided not to be

among the first wave of entrants, and Greece falls short of the criteria.

Across Europe, stocks and bonds rallied strongly. Investors in Italy and Spain, which have made extraordinary efforts to catch up with their wealthier partners, saw the reports as removing any doubt that those countries will be

charter members of the currency.

EU officials said it was virtually a certainty that heads of government would approve the decision when they meet in Brussels on May 2, despite remaining structural weaknesses and concerns that national economies have not yet converged enough.



Wim Duisenberg, president of the European Monetary Institute, listening to a positive report on the euro in Frankfurt on Wednesday.

The new currency, the euro, will not be an end in itself but an "instrument" to spur and sustain economic growth into the next century, the commission's president, Jacques Santer, said.

President Jacques Chirac of France voiced more ambitious hopes, saying that the single currency would allow Europe "to fight more effectively in the world in defending its interests."

"That is true for all of Europe and for France in particular," he said.

He called the euro a "monetary tool" that, he said, will be "one of the most important in the world."

In Frankfurt, the European Monetary Institute, forerunner of the central bank that will set monetary policy and exchange rates when the new currency comes into being, was more emphatic about the problems that need to be tackled to make the currency union a success, including towering public debt in Italy and Belgium.

"Decisive and sustained corrective policies of a structural nature are warranted in most countries," the institute said.

Public debt in Germany is rising, partly as a result of the cost of reunification. But the commission said it remained close to the 60 percent ref-

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Calls for a More 'Social' Europe Put Leaders on Spot

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

ROME — Even as Europe's political leaders celebrate the now inevitable selection of 11 founding members of the new single currency, they face a potentially explosive social situation that amounts to a race against the clock.

With more than 18 million people out of work in the European Union, demands are growing stronger and louder — on the shop floor, in street protests and on the political hustings — that European leaders broaden their focus beyond what critics call a "Europe of money" to include a more "social Europe."

In France, Italy and Germany, this has become a catch phrase for growing demands to set aside the fiscal austerity that has been a hallmark of the drive toward economic and monetary union and reopen the spigot of public spending and create jobs.

That will be a difficult proposition, as the new stability pact — reinforced last weekend at a meeting of EU finance ministers in York, England — is supposed to police any potential budget profligacy well after the euro is launched in January.

"The risks are enormous," said Ralf Dahrendorf, former head of the London School of Economics, "because once everybody is inside the single currency, they will relax again, and my own view is that

the stability pact will prove nonexistent."

The dilemma faced by European political leaders is that the clamor for more social spending comes just as they are beginning to crown the remarkable achievement of monetary union. Some senior European officials acknowledge in private that they fear they need to act quickly to show their concern.

"Pushing for a more social Europe," warned Horst Siebert, president of the Kiel Institute of World Economics, "could mean higher wage costs and higher unemployment."

In recent weeks the demands of the jobless have

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Lebanese Skeptical of Israeli Offer On Pullout

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

BEIRUT — For 20 years, successive Lebanese governments have demanded — with backing from the United Nations Security Council — that Israel withdraw its forces from Lebanon. Now Israel has expressed its willingness to do just that and Lebanon is balking at the offer.

A reasonable person might ask, "What gives?"

In his most detailed answer to date, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri sought Wednesday to explain Lebanon's response to Israel's offer to withdraw its troops from the strip of southern Lebanon it occupies as a buffer zone against guerrilla and rocket attacks on northern Israel.

Casting doubt on the sincerity of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, Mr. Hariri said it would be "a disaster" for Lebanon to make a separate arrangement with Israel in the absence of a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace settlement that includes Syria, which demands that Israel return the strategically situated Golan Heights.

"If Israel wants to withdraw, we welcome that," Mr. Hariri told three American journalists in the living room of his private residence here. "But Israel is asking more than that."

It wants Lebanon to be accountable for the security of the northern border, he said, adding, "In our view, security cooperation among the countries concerned — meaning Lebanon, Israel and Syria — is possible only when we have a peace agreement."

Israel's surprise offer, which won partial backing Tuesday from Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary-general,



Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, donning a yarmulke Wednesday as he visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem.

AGENDA

U.K. Spells Out Powers for London Mayor

LONDON (AP) — With big names already jostling for the job, Britain on Wednesday spelled out wide-ranging powers for its proposed post of London's first elected mayor.

London's 5 million voters will decide in a referendum May 7 whether

they want a powerful mayor and a new 25-member city government.

The proposals will give Londoners "a choice and a voice for London and return the capital's government to the people of London," said Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott.

Indonesia Readies New Economic Plan

Indonesian officials said Wednesday they expected to unveil as early as next week an economic reform package that they hoped would stabilize the country's currency and revive its ailing banking sector through restructurings while tackling the problem of huge private-sector debt. Page 15.

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The Dollar			
New York	Wednesday 4 P.M.	previous close	
DM	1.8267	1.8282	
Pound	1.6747	1.675	
Yen	128.815	130.275	
FF	6.1225	6.1268	
The Dow			
Wednesday close	previous close		
-31.64	8872.80	8904.44	
S&P 500			
change	Wednesday 4 P.M.	previous close	
-3.68	1101.98	1105.65	

Contact Group Gives Milosevic a Month to Meet Terms

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BONN — The United States and five European powers vowed Wednesday to cut off weapons supplies to Yugoslavia by next week and impose new economic sanctions on the nation unless President Slobodan Milosevic opens negotiations on greater political autonomy for ethnic Albanians in Kosovo Province.

But the meeting fell far short of American demands to escalate pressure against Mr. Milosevic, who has shrewdly exploited persistent divisions among the group on how to deal with the Yugoslav leader, whose domain includes Serbia and Montenegro

Struggling to defuse the latest ethnic crisis in the Balkans, foreign ministers from the six-nation Contact Group decided to give Mr. Milosevic another month to meet their demands, including the full withdrawal of

Ethnic Albanians are ready to fight. Page 4.

special police units engaged in a brutal crackdown on ethnic Albanians, who make up 90 percent of Kosovo's population.

Russia, a traditional ally of the Orthodox Serbs who dominate Yugoslavia and their chief weapons supplier, argued against any sanctions. Germany, France and

Italy said incentives to gain Mr. Milosevic's cooperation should be offered along with punitive measures. But the U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, warned that Mr. Milosevic was stalling until the outside world loses interest in Kosovo, a province along the Albanian border that Serbs consider their historical heartland but which has long been populated by ethnic Albanians.

"I know it is tempting to say that positive measures will work better," Mrs. Albright said. "But our experience teaches us not to be misled by our hopes."

She added, "We have to remember that progress

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UN Leader Says Israel Undermines Peace Drive

By Serge Schmemmann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Delivering what he called "the most difficult message" of his visit to Israel, the United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, accused Israel on Wednesday of a chain of "provocative acts" that have contributed to a crisis in Israeli-Arab relations.

"As a friend, it gives me no pleasure to recite a list of the grievances which the international community has against Israel," Mr. Annan said in a speech to the Israel Council on Foreign Relations.

"But I think it is important for you, my Israeli friends, to try to understand that those grievances do not come out of a clear blue sky. Here is what the great

Israel offers a new plan for a West Bank withdrawal. Page 2.

majority of the member states of the United Nations say: They regard Israel as having been responsible, directly or indirectly, for provocative acts that undermine goodwill and spark hostilities."

The fundamental formula of the Oslo agreements, land for peace, was "the only principle that has a chance of bringing peace to this land," Mr. Annan said.

Mr. Annan issued the reproaches after first acknowledging that Israel had caused to view the United Nations with disdain after decades of lopsided resolutions and denunciations, "that Israelis see hypocrisy and double standards in the intense scrutiny given to some of its actions while other situations fail to elicit the world's outrage and condemnation."

Though Mr. Annan is not the first UN secretary-general to visit Israel, he was the first to express regret publicly before an Israeli audience for the bias the United Nations has shown against Israel, and he vowed to work for a "new era of relations between Israel and the United Nations."

But the effort at reconciliation did not blunt the stern message that Mr. Annan went on to deliver in the same soft, gentle tones. In the view of the great majority of UN members, he said, Israel disobeyed the Security Council and dodged the Oslo agreements. He listed the settlements, the hardships imposed on Palestinians by various restrictions on their movements and "other actions

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Newsstand Prices	
Bahrain	1,000 BD
Cyprus	1.00 C
Denmark	14.00 DKR
Finland	12.00 FM
Gibraltar	1.00 G
Great Britain	5.50 S
India	1.250 JD
Japan	1.250 JD
Korea	1.250 JD
Kuwait	1,000 KD



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THE AMERICAS

House Panel Approves \$217 Billion in Transportation Spending

By Eric Pianin
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The House transportation committee has swiftly approved \$217 billion in spending for highways, bridges, mass transit systems and bike paths, virtually assuring passage of one of the biggest public works bills in history.

The House action Tuesday, coupled with earlier passage by the Senate, assures an increase in spending beyond what anyone thought possible six months ago, lawmakers said. It also marks a substantial alteration in the federal government's priorities outlined in last summer's balanced budget deal — trading various social programs for election-year outlays on concrete and asphalt.

The measure is "the most significant piece of transportation legislation in our country's history" since the creation of the interstate highway system in the mid-1950s, said Representative Bud Shuster, the Pennsylvania Republican who wrote the House version.

The proposed 42 percent increase is nearly \$30 billion more over the coming six years than allowed under the agreement and will obligate Congress to find offsetting cuts in other government programs.

Although there are many details to be worked out between the House and Senate over such issues as the shape of the ultimate package of "pork barrel" projects requested by individual members, Congress now appears on a fast track to clear new highway legislation before a May 1 deadline.

The House was not shy about many special projects in its bill. Crafted largely by Mr. Shuster, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the bill contains nearly \$18 billion worth of projects earmarked for roughly four-fifths of all congressional districts.

The 1,400 "high priority" projects — widely referred to as pork barrel spending — range from \$100,000 to "upgrade pedestrian traffic facilities" in Bristol, Rhode Island, to \$97 million for a major demolition and reconstruction of an interstate bridge in Oklahoma. The Senate bill, by contrast,

contains only a few earmarked projects, although traditionally Senate leaders wait until the conference with the House to present their lists.

Mr. Shuster's bill, called the Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act, was approved by his committee by a vote of 69 to 0, and will be sent to the House floor next week for almost certain passage before Congress departs for the April recess.

Lawmakers viewed the bill as a major triumph for Mr. Shuster, a 13-term veteran who has waged a crusade to shake loose billions more from the federal highway trust funds to fix or widen crumbling highways and bridges and spur economic development.

"Shuster knows how to work the system," said a Republican member of the committee, Representative Ray LaHood of Illinois. "He's at the pinnacle of his power right now. And I think he goes into the conference with the Senate with an awful lot of clout and influence."

Representative James Oberstar of Minnesota,

the ranking Democrat on the committee, praised Mr. Shuster's skill and persistence in overcoming leadership resistance and dubbed the bill the "Bud E. Shuster Transportation for All Eternity Act."

But some Senate and House Republicans complained that adding so much in pork barrel spending sends the wrong signal. Representative Steve Largent, Republican of Oklahoma, contended that Mr. Shuster was using the earmarked projects to "buy votes" for his bill.

"It stinks," Mr. Largent said. Mr. Shuster defended the practice, saying that all the projects had been carefully vetted and that there was nothing wrong with Congress' earmarking 3 percent of the overall spending.

At the heart of the plan is the requirement that future federal gas tax revenues be used exclusively for highway spending and not for other types of spending or for offsetting the deficit. Mr. Shuster and his allies have fought for years to move the trust fund "off budget" and hence out of bounds for other kinds of spending or deficit reduction.

POLITICAL NOTES
A Not-So-Great Lake For Senator Leahy

WASHINGTON — Whoops! Lake Champlain may not be not a Great Lake after all. The Senate has now revoked that status, and the House is expected to do the same next week.

Congress recently voted to confer the lofty Great Lake status on the relatively diminutive lake that laps at the shores of Vermont and New York. President Bill Clinton went along with it to direct some federal research dollars to the home state of Senator Patrick Leahy, Democrat of Vermont.

Congress said Tuesday that it was all a mistake, although not in so many words.

Lake Champlain will now revert to non-Great status, and North America will go back to having just five Great Lakes. But Vermont will still be able to compete for the research money that Great Lake states are eligible for under a national sea-grant program. (NYT)

Overhaul of the IRS Is a Taxing Affair

WASHINGTON — Senator William Roth Jr., Republican of Delaware, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, has unveiled a far-reaching plan to overhaul the Internal Revenue Service that goes considerably beyond a measure passed by the House and that nearly triples its cost.

The proposal, which could cost as much as \$20 billion over the next 10 years, would reorganize the IRS's management, strengthen taxpayer rights in dealing with the agency, make it easier for "innocent spouses" to escape liability for tax debts incurred by their spouses or ex-spouses, and ease penalties and interest now assessed against individuals who owe back taxes.

Some senators have already protested that finding new sources of revenue to pay for the reforms would amount to raising taxes to give taxpayers more rights. (WP)

Quote/Unquote:

Representative John Conyers, Democrat of Michigan, who is black and who is chief author of a bill passed by the House requiring the Justice Department to determine the racial breakdown for routine traffic stops by state and local police. "There are very few of us in this country who have not been stopped at one time for an alleged traffic violation that we thought constituted really simple racial harassment." (AP)

Lewinsky's Mother Told She Must Testify

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Monica Lewinsky's mother, Marcia Lewis, failed Wednesday to persuade a judge to excuse her from further questioning by a federal grand jury investigating allegations of a presidential affair and cover-up.

"Unfortunately, nothing changed," said Ms. Lewis's lawyer, Billy Martin. "She remains a witness before the grand jury."

Mr. Martin declined to give details of the two-hour closed hearing before Judge Norma Holloway Johnson of U.S. District Court.

A psychiatrist, Dr. Neil Blumberg, was called into the hearing for Ms. Lewis, but said afterward that the judge would not allow him to make any comment. Last month, Ms. Lewis was distraught when she left the courthouse after a second day of questioning about allegations her daughter and the president had an affair and tried to cover it up.

Mr. Martin said Ms. Lewis would make a statement after completing her testimony.

"She would like me to note that in her love and support of her daughter Monica, she would look forward to making a statement that explains her view in this matter," he said.

Prosecutors working for the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, are trying to learn whether Ms. Lewinsky, a former White House intern, had an affair with President Clinton and whether they tried to keep it secret. They have been seeking to identify friends and associates in whom Ms. Lewinsky may have confided her relationship with the president.

Mr. Clinton has denied having any sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.



Marcia Lewis and her lawyer, Billy Martin, arriving at the courthouse in Washington on Wednesday.

Subpoenaed: Intern's Taste in Literature

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Is there anything more scandalous than a presidential counsel's taste in literature?

On Monday, Kenneth Starr and his staff were ordered to turn over records of Ms. Lewinsky's purchases at a Washington bookstore before she became a household name in January.

"We are cooperating," said Carol O'Riordan, Kramerbooks' attorney, adding that they were trying to work out "a response that is not unduly burdensome to a small company."

One of several books Ms. Lewinsky bought there is "Vox," Nicholson Baker's 1992 novel of yuppie phone sex between a man in a Western city and a woman in the East.

Word of the subpoena outraged Ms. Lewinsky's lawyer, William Ginsburg, who offered up a few literary references of his own.

"This is 'Animal Farm.' This is 'Brave New World.' This is 'My God, they've got the government in our bathroom.'"

Mr. Starr's spokeswoman, Deborah Gershman, would not comment.

As Marriage Rates Fall, Black Women Despair

Where Are the Successful, Educated Men?

By Richard Morin
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Listen carefully to what black men and women say privately about each other, says a Harvard sociologist, Orlando Patterson. "But you won't like some of what you hear," he cautions.

Mr. Patterson has been listening to black men and women for nearly four decades. And today, Mr. Patterson, there is a "crisis" in relations between black men and women.

As marriage rates among blacks plummet, Mr. Patterson says he is hearing increased numbers of educated, middle-class black women speak in tones of resignation or desperation about the scarcity of similarly accomplished black men.

"It is a crisis," agreed M. Belinda Tucker, a UCLA professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral science and author of a recent book titled "The Decline in Marriage Among African-Americans."

"But it is a crisis set in the context of a larger crisis: the continuing vulnerability of the black male in this society," she said, noting the high unemployment rates of young black men.

Other experts, however, say the picture is not entirely bleak. Millions of black women and men, regardless of their social or economic class, enjoy healthy relationships with the opposite sex. Millions are happily married or happily single.

Nor are problems unique to blacks. Ms. Tucker and Mr. Patterson say relations between white men and women may become increasingly strained for some of the same reasons that trouble the

relationships of black men and women.

For instance, in 1910, the government reported that a majority of black women worked outside the home; white women passed that milestone only in the past 20 years, census statistics show. With work inevitably comes increased tensions at home as men and women struggle to adjust to new roles and responsibilities, Ms. Tucker said.

Census figures also reveal that the number of unmarried black women who gave birth fell by 5 percent between 1990 and 1994, while the percentage of out-of-wedlock births to white women increased by 23 percent during the same period.

In the past four decades, a social and economic revolution has transformed traditional patterns of marriage and family among both whites and blacks. Still, Ms. Tucker said, the changes are greater among blacks.

From 1950 to 1995, the percentage of black women 14 or older who were married fell from 62 percent to under 38 percent. Fifty-nine percent of all white women are married, down from 66 percent in 1950. Data collected by census researchers also suggest that fewer than 75 percent of black women can expect to marry sometime in their lives, compared with 90 percent of white women.

Gail Dean, 38, of Indianola, Mississippi, is a college-educated social worker who makes a comfortable living. She has never married, and doubts she ever will.

"Black men are intimidated by successful women," said Ms. Dean. "I own my own home, I'm independent, and I meet guys who are intimidated by that — they feel they're not the man if the woman has more than they have."

Complaints Greet U.S. Policy Change on Testing of New Passenger Jets

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration plans to certify three new jets for service without the traditional test of a passenger escape, opting instead to rely on partial tests and an anecdotal analysis conducted by the aircraft makers.

The policy change, which would eliminate the usual practice of sending mock passengers out emergency exits and down evacuation slides, prompted an aviation watchdog group and the world's largest union of flight attendants to assert that passenger safety was being jeopardized.

But the FAA argues that in both cases, a wealth of full-scale evacuation data are available to support its new position. In many cases in

which passengers survive an airliner accident, they die from smoke, fire or water because they are incapacitated or cannot leave the plane quickly enough.

"Certifying new jumbo airliners without emergency evacuation testing is like launching hundreds of potential Titanic," Paul Hudson, executive director of the Aviation Consumer Action Project, said Tuesday.

Chris Witkowski, spokesman for the 42,000-member Association of Flight Attendants, added: "If you don't do the drill when you have a new aircraft, you don't really know how the passenger flow and passenger management will work until you do have a real accident or the need for a real evacuation. At that time, it's too late."

The policy change applies to the Boeing 777-300 series, an elongated version of the company's newest jumbo jet, and stretch versions of the Airbus A330-300. The A330 has two engines; the A340, four.

In the case of the 777-300, the fuselage will be stretched to increase the passenger capacity from 440 people to 550. Another pair of emergency exits will also be added.

Airbus is going to lengthen the A330-300 aircraft to increase its capacity from 361 passengers to 440. The European plan maker will not, however, add any new emergency exits to either plane; instead, it will increase the size of an existing pair of exits.

"In both these cases, a wealth of full-scale evacuation data are available to support analysis

and the FAA is confident that the use of analysis is well within the intent of the regulation," Ronald Wojnar, the FAA's air certification manager, said in a notice March 6. That was a day before Boeing conducted a partial safety test on the 777-300.

"Therefore, in accordance with the regulation, conduct of additional full-scale evacuation demonstrations is not required to demonstrate compliance, if a satisfactory analysis is produced," Mr. Wojnar wrote.

The previous regulation stated that an aircraft maker could not receive certification for a new aircraft or one with a "major change" without showing that passengers and the flight crew could exit the plane within 90 seconds using only half the available exits.

Manufacturers contend that the tests are costly and dangerous. They also say that with stretch models, the same information about passenger safety can be gleaned by extrapolating from partial tests and data gathered from tests of the initial aircraft.

While the new policy applies only to the three models listed in the order, the FAA is accepting comment until April 6 about whether it should use a similar policy for other stretch aircraft versions.

Kirsti Dunn, a spokeswoman for Boeing, could not say if the company had requested the policy change or whether it had been timed to allow the partial test a day later. A spokesman for Airbus did not respond to a call seeking comment.

AMERICAN TOPICS

Activists Fight Statue of Queen In Her Namesake Borough

At the Tallix Foundry in the upstate New York town of Beacon, bronze is being poured for a 50-foot sculpture of Queen Catherine, the 17th century Portuguese princess who became an English ruler. Whether the statue, once completed, ever makes it to its intended destination — the New York City borough of Queens, which was named for Catherine — is unclear.

A small group of activists opposes the statue, arguing that Catherine profited from the slave trade and that in any case it is inappropriate for any monarch to grace the skyline of New York. Historians dismiss the idea that Catherine, who married King Charles II of England at age 24, was linked to slavery. The Sun of Baltimore reports. A pro-Catherine activist, John Noonan, argues, "If they stop Catherine, no statue will ever be erected again from that period in New York City."

For all the divisiveness, the same originated as a "feel good" project. Edward Koch, then New York mayor, traveled to Portugal to tell his Lisbon counterpart that a Portuguese princess had inspired Queens. The Portuguese government and private individuals donated \$3 million for the statue — part of a campaign to raise the borough's profile — and a smaller replica to be placed along the Taugus River in Lisbon.

Catherine returned to Portugal after Charles's death in 1685. Though Portuguese ships carried more slaves across the Atlantic than those of any other nation, historians say that Catherine's wealth came from excise taxes and rent on gov-

ernment land. She left most of her fortune to charitable causes, including the freeing of slaves.

Short Takes

No time to make it to the psychologist's office? A new dial-a-shrink service aims to fill the needs of many overstressed Americans. The Psychology Network, a 1-800 phone line launched last month, has 70 psychologists on-call in several states. The Miami Herald reports.

New American Psychological Association guidelines say phone counseling has its place, so long as confidentiality is maintained and callers have realistic expectations. Users should not expect help with long-standing disorders or dependencies, for example. Nor does toll free counseling come cheap. For a 50-minute session, the Florida-based service charges close to \$200 an hour, or twice what a patient would pay in a Florida psychologist's office.

Trendy cafes aside, the share of Americans drinking coffee has fallen to its lowest level in nearly 50 years, to 47.2 percent early this year from 48.6 percent last year, the National Coffee Association said. One key factor: surging coffee prices, which reached a 20-year high last year.

The Burlington, North Carolina, police are hot on the trail of a nasty group of scofflaws: library patrons with overdue books. The city library asked the police to arrest more than 60 people as felons for failing to return materials. At least 35 have been arrested, including six juveniles. The district attorney has said he will prosecute. Those arrested face court costs of at least \$80 and could spend time in jail, though the police say that is unlikely. Despite protests, the library defends the approach. It has recovered more than \$30,000 worth of missing materials, half the total.

Brian Knowlton

Away From Politics

• Lime Village, Alaska, just entered the modern era with the inauguration of a small electric power plant that for the first time allowed the 50 residents to give up their candles, lanterns and small generators. But not all 15 houses are served yet by the buried cables in the town about 200 miles east of Anchorage. (AP)

• Calling him a "dangerous monster," a judge sentenced John Royster Jr. to life in prison without parole for an eight-day rape, robbery and murder spree in June 1996. The 23-year-old had refused to apologize to his victims or their families. (AP)

• Medical marijuana advocates prayed, marched and rallied in central San Francisco in support of California's cannabis clubs as the federal government asked a U.S. district court judge to shut them down. The 200 protesters cheered the district attorney, Terence Hallinan, who has vowed that the city will supply medical marijuana to patients if its clubs are shuttered. (LAT)

• A Princeton, Texas high school student slashed three teachers with a razor blade when they tried to stop the 16-year-old from hanting himself. (AP)

Green Cards Delayed by Glitch

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The U.S. government has delayed issuing 78,000 residency permits for immigrants because a new machine designed to produce fraud-proof green cards has been dysfunctional since it was installed last summer.

Spokesmen said the Immigration and Naturalization Service was only working out bugs as it starts using sophisticated technology to produce green cards that contain digital fingerprints and high quality photographs. The cards, which confer permanent legal residency, are a precious commodity, representing the first formal step toward becoming an American.

Which former PTOs, once privatized, have proved to be the most competitive?

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International Herald Tribune

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Friday

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

EUROPE

Russian Arms Pledged To Milosevic, U.S. Says

Washington, in Dark on Details, Is Worried

By Raymond Bonner
New York Times Service

LONDON — In a move that could threaten the delicate peace in the Balkans, Russia has agreed in principle to sell Yugoslavia tanks, attack helicopters, ground-to-air missiles, MiG-29s and spare parts, U.S. officials report.

The deal, which was arranged in Moscow in December, has not been made public, and American officials say they are in the dark about the details, including the quantity of weapons and how many have already been delivered.

The Russian weapons will put Yugoslavia in violation of the Dayton agreement, which ended the fighting in Bosnia, an official of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said. The organization, which monitors compliance with limits set on weapons in the Balkans, had not been told about the Russian deal, the official said.

American officials would talk about the deal only on the condition that they not be identified, because President Bill Clinton's administration has sought to keep it from becoming a public issue. A State Department official said Tuesday that the administration had formally objected to the deal in meetings with Russian officials, but human-rights advocates say that was not enough.

"Military goods should not be transferred to a government implicated in war crimes," said Fred Abrahams, an associate at Human Rights Watch in New York, referring to the government of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr. Abrahams added that there was "strong evidence that attack helicopters had been used indiscriminately against civilians during the recent demonstrations in Kosovo."

Shortly before the turmoil in Kosovo, the Yugoslav government received two Russian-made attack helicopters, a U.S. official said.

It was because of Mr. Milosevic's actions against the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo that the United States, Britain and other powers imposed an arms embargo on Yugoslavia on March 9.

Russia did not oppose the arms embargo, but in recent days it has indicated that it would do so now.

The 1995 Dayton accords set limits on the number of weapons, including tanks, helicopters and combat aircraft, that the governments in the region can have. Yugoslavia is at the limit in all categories except artillery, an official of the Organization for Security and Co-

operation in Europe said. American officials fear that excess weapons will be transferred to the Bosnian Serbs or to a country such as Libya, which Mr. Milosevic has sold to in the past.

Mr. Clinton's administration, however, is on somewhat shaky ground in opposing the deal, several U.S. officials said, because it is upgrading the weapons of the predominantly Muslim Bosnian Army.

It is not clear how Yugoslavia, with its bankrupt economy, will pay for weapons from Russia. But back in the days of the Soviet Union, Moscow ran up a debt of \$1.5 billion to the former Yugoslavia, primarily for agricultural goods, steel and clothing.

American officials are greatly concerned that Mr. Milosevic may be planning to draw on this debt to pay for the weapons, because the debt is owed not only to Mr. Milosevic's state but to other countries of the former Yugoslavia as well.



U.S. Marines who landed in Ploce, Croatia, waiting Wednesday to be flown to Bosnia for a NATO exercise.

Winds of War Blow Stronger Day by Day in Kosovo

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

LIKOVIC, Yugoslavia — In the rugged hills and placid-looking villages of Kosovo, tough ethnic Albanian independence fighters of the Kosovo Liberation Army are nervous and expecting the worst.

The latest Balkan war is gathering day by day in Likovic, a tiny hill village about 25 kilometers (15 miles) from Pristina, the provincial capital. Armed with automatic weapons, dressed in good uniforms and boots, and equipped with sophisticated walkie-talkies, the guerrillas appear well trained, determined and ready for a fight.

"They can't even take a step forward," said a bearded young fighter with an AK-47 assault rifle across his lap, speaking of the Serbian paramilitary forces who oppose them. "We're not afraid. We'll risk our lives to defend our land."

They may have to. Just a few kilometers away, Serbia's paramilitary forces are dug in behind sandbags and armored personnel carriers. Despite international demands made more than two weeks ago, the Serbian troops have not withdrawn from Kosovo, and there are signs they may be preparing for a new onslaught.

Firefights between the Albanian guerrillas and the Serbian troops break out nearly every night and some days here in Kosovo's ethnic Albanian heartland, known as Drenica, which forms a triangle west of Pristina. Most women and children have left for villages farther from the action.

The guerrillas fire assault rifles and, according to witnesses, heavier weapons as well. The Serbian para-

military forces respond with bigger weapons — anti-aircraft cannons and mortars. Repeatedly, the Albanians say, the Serbian troops have tried to advance into the hills. But the roads and the terrain are very rough — and so, they say, is the resistance.

The guerrillas' numbers are unknown, but educated guesses do not exceed the hundreds. At least some were trained in the old Yugoslav Army. Although limited, their firepower is multiplied by villagers with

"We need quick and decisive international measures. I'm afraid any delay or confusion will produce a wider conflict or even a war."

less training and no uniforms but equal determination.

"This is the center" of resistance, said a man in his 20s who spoke broken English and described himself as a literature student at Pristina University. He was seated with three fighters in a cafe in Likovic. "The Serb force can come only by the skies and by tank — and only with blood. He must kill us to come here."

Still, the guerrillas are nervous. When three American journalists arrived to speak to them, they said they believed reporters were working for Serbian intelligence. They demanded to inspect the visitors' sunglasses, suspecting they hid tiny cameras. And they gave only a handful of terse answers before asking the Americans to leave.

Kosovo's majority ethnic Albanian population has bristled under Serbian domination for much of this century. Tito, the dominant figure of postwar Yugoslavia, granted the province autonomy, but after Tito's death Slobodan Milosevic, now Yugoslav president, reincorporated it into Serbia in 1989. Serbs consider the province the cradle of their civilization.

Today, 90 percent of Kosovo's 2 million people are Albanian. Yet the 10 percent or so who are Serbs dominate them so thoroughly — politically, economically and in all institutions of state — that the arrangement has been likened to apartheid.

Since 1992, Kosovo's Albanians have been led by Ibrahim Rugova. Although revered by most of Kosovo's Albanians, Mr. Rugova has followed a policy of passive resistance to Serbian rule that has yielded few results. Some Albanians, enraged by what human rights groups describe as brutal Serbian repression, have taken up arms.

"It is very dangerous right now," said Mahmut Bakalli, a former Communist Party leader of Kosovo in the days before the Yugoslav Federation splintered, leaving only Serbia and a much smaller republic, Montenegro. "We need quick and decisive international measures. I'm afraid any delay or confusion will produce a wider conflict or even a war."

Serbian officials agreed the conflict was likely to spread. "There are a lot of terrorists" at large, said Veljko Odalovic, the Serbian government's chief administrator in Kosovo, including some he described as having been "marked" by the authorities. He vowed last week that "adequate measures" would be applied at the first opportunity.

BALKANS: Contact Group Gives Milosevic a Month to Meet Its Demands

Continued from Page 1

has only come about through sustained pressure.

In settling for what U.S. officials called the "least common denominator" that reaffirmed earlier decisions by the group, Mrs. Albright acknowledged that such minimal decisions need to be carried out or the group will lose its credibility.

"If he has his way," she said, "he will do as little as possible to meet our concerns, and then only under pressure and at the last minute. Incentives tend to be pocketed; warnings tend not to be believed. How should we respond to all this bobbing and weaving?"

At a meeting in London on March 9, the six nations agreed to consider a comprehensive arms embargo against Yugoslavia, a ban

on sales of equipment that could be used for internal repression, a denial of visas for those involved in the crackdown and an end to export credits to Belgrade.

The Contact Group will meet again in four weeks to assess whether Mr. Milosevic has complied with the demands. If he does not meet the deadline, Mrs. Albright said the group would move immediately to impose new sanctions, such as a freeze on Yugoslav assets abroad and a ban on foreign investment in Serbia and Montenegro.

Russia has blocked progress on the UN arms embargo resolution amid reports it is ready to resume large-scale weapons deliveries to Yugoslavia, including the sale of the kinds of tanks and helicopters that have been used in the suppression. At least 80 ethnic Albanians have

died since the crackdown began.

European diplomats said the Russian foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, threatened to the last minutes to renounce the decisions made Wednesday, relenting only after realizing that the other states were prepared to leave Russia isolated and press ahead with stiffer sanctions. At a news conference, Mr. Primakov said Moscow would try to reach agreement with the others on the terms of an arms embargo by March 31.

But he insisted that the measure not be one-sided, calling for a ban on weapons crossing the mountainous Albanian frontier to ethnic separatists who have been fighting to liberate Kosovo from Serbian rule.

He also said that if the Serbs were expected to open political autonomy talks, the separatists must

approach the discussions without insisting on independence.

Russia's resistance to join in the arms embargo was compounded by European reluctance to embrace the unyielding U.S. approach to dealing with Mr. Milosevic. After a meeting with the Yugoslav leader last week, Foreign Ministers Klaus Kinkel of Germany and Hubert Vedrine of France expressed satisfaction with Belgrade's progress in meeting the Contact Group's demands and suggested that a policy of incentives should be blended with sanctions.

European diplomats pointed to an accord reached this week, for instance, that grants Albanian students in Kosovo the right to resume studying in their own language as the first tentative sign that some progress is being achieved toward a political resolution of the crisis.

LABOR: Push for More 'Social' Europe Along With Euro Challenges Leaders

Continued from Page 1

begun to shape the politics of continental Europe's three biggest economies.

In Italy, tens of thousands of people marched through Milan, Naples and Palermo last weekend, demanding government action on jobs. Trade union leaders who had been threatening a general strike were placated Tuesday with the promise of \$11 billion of special incentives for job creation in the depressed South, although the government said the outlay would have no effect on its fiscal rigor. Despite howls of protest from employers, the far-left Refounded Communists were rewarded this week with legislation that would cut the workweek to 35 hours from 40.

In France, the Socialist-led government has introduced legislation mandating a 35-hour workweek and answered protests by the unemployed this year by agreeing to increase spending on unemployment benefits. The Socialists did well in regional elections this month — but so did the far-right National Front, which has played on social fears and a rejection of a more integrated Europe.

In Germany, which like Italy and France faces an unemployment rate of more than 12 percent, the Social Democrats are also scoring regional electoral victories. The party's candidate for chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, is advancing in opinion polls, and trade unions are demanding more action on jobs.

"These developments are very symptomatic of a groundswell of social concern," Mr. Dahrendorf said. "The scenario could be that between 1999 and 2002, at least one of the major members will either have to or will wish to leave EMU because of domestic social and

political needs that are overriding, and it could all begin to unravel."

Dominique Moisi, deputy director of the French Institute for International Relations, said the message from demonstrators is increasingly that "the euro can wait, but we can't."

Mr. Moisi said leaders across Europe face "a balancing act" because "the more they concentrate on the euro, which is a rather abstract concentration on money, the more they find they have to take care of the people themselves."

In another sign of the race by European politicians to address growing social concerns, the French government approved legislation Wednesday that would allocate 38.2 billion francs (\$6.24 billion) to new programs that would help the jobless and disadvantaged.

The pressure is growing across the Rhine as well.

"In Germany," said Ursula Engelen-Kefer, vice president of the DGB trade union, "the people are very skeptical about the Europe of money. People see what happened so far, and they don't see the benefits for the future. If you have only a monetary union and no harmonization of employment and social policies, it can become dangerous."

George Soros, the international financier, warned, "In conditions of common currency but not appropriate institutions, you could have certain countries or regions that are plunged into distress conditions. There could be a rebellion against a regime imposed from above and which is too painful to tolerate."

Mr. Dahrendorf said that "European monetary union as such has no socially beneficial consequences." "I have seen a number of central bank governors in the last few

weeks, including Hans Tietmeyer of the Bundesbank and Wim Duisenberg, head of the European Monetary Institute, and they have all insisted that no false claims should be made about EMU," he said. "Their message is that it will not help unemployment or the welfare state."

"If one wants to take a more gloomy view," he added, "one could say that a larger homogenous currency area will increase competition and promote further mergers, and both of these will actually reduce employment further."

The answer, say economists such as Mr. Siebert and Norbert Walter of Deutsche Bank, is to push ahead with efforts to make the Continent's labor markets more flexible.

"If France and Italy take the road to a 35-hour workweek seriously," Mr. Walter said, "they are adding to their problems."

EMU: In a Historic Moment, 11 Countries Win Approval

Continued from Page 1

reference value and was expected to start declining this year.

The institute said Europe needed even more of the belt-tightening that enabled the 11 nations to squeeze into the single currency criteria.

"The adjustments seen over the past need to be carried substantially further," the institute said. Stock prices rose by 3 percent in Italy, by 2 percent in France and Spain and by 1 percent in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Bond prices were mostly steady, holding the strong gains in recent months that have driven long-term interest rates to the lowest levels since World War II. Ten-year rates ranged from 4.86 percent in Germany to 5.13 percent in Italy.

"With the exception of unemployment, there really have been few moments in recent decades that are better than the current one for launching monetary union," said Kim Schoenholtz, chief economist at Salomon Smith Barney in London.

The reports by the commission and the monetary institute were made on the anniversary of the founding of the European Economic Community in 1957.

Observers said it was highly unlikely that the government leaders would differ from the reports. The German finance minister, Theo Waigel, said in Bonn that the reports were "a good and important basis" for the decision in May.

At the same time, the European Commission, the EU's executive body, issued its spring economic

forecast, indicating across-the-board growth in gross domestic product of 2.8 percent this year and 3 percent in 1999. The growth would have been respectively 0.2 and 0.1 percent higher had it not been for the Asian financial crisis, the report said.

"The economic fundamentals in Europe are very positive," the commission added. "Low inflation, favorable monetary conditions, high profitability of investment and sustained external demand should ensure that the present recovery continues to strengthen, leading to the creation of 3.4 million jobs over the period 1997-1999."

At their meeting in May, finance ministers will set the rate at which existing currencies will be converted to the euro on Jan. 1.

Crystal Ball Sort of Cloudy After Yeltsin's Shake-Up

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — It is indicative of the uncertainty surrounding Russia's government crisis that eager reporters have even flocked to a fortune teller in hopes of learning what will happen next.

Unfortunately for the crowd gathered at the Central House of Journalists, the seer, Raisa Sumerina, who reportedly predicted Monday's downfall of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, was unable to satisfy.

The best she could do was offer the reporters a potion to cure high blood pressure.

Two days after president Boris Yeltsin fired the entire cabinet, Russian politics are in a strange limbo. The acting prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, is walking and talking like a prime minister, but has not been named Mr. Chernomyrdin's permanent replacement.

He is drawing up a list of nominations for a new cabinet, but has made no names public. Parliament members are making noise about rejecting him because of his inexperience.

Mr. Yeltsin is silent on the matter. He was at his country dacha, a retreat where he has spent all but a few hours during the last two weeks — first, convalescing from a respiratory infection and then, this week, to prepare for a meeting with the leaders of France and Germany.

In between, he came to Moscow only to dismiss the government and to ask Mr. Kiriyenko to form a new cabinet.

The backward nature of the process — having Mr. Kiriyenko nominate a government before he himself is nominated permanent prime minister — has drawn quizzical commentary from Russian observers.

The Nezavisimaya Gazeta newspaper described it as putting "the cart before the horse."

The most common explanation was the usual one that holds in Russian politics: Mr. Yeltsin keeps control by keeping everyone off balance.

In any case, Mr. Kiriyenko, 35, has begun to reveal his priorities if not his choice of personnel. In between consultations with legislators and other political leaders, he said that he wants to fulfill three main tasks at the outset: pay back wages to state workers, fend off negative effects of falling prices for oil, one of the country's main exports, and prepare for possible spring flooding.

BRIEFLY

Kohl Challenger Assails Greens

BONN — The Social Democrats' candidate for chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, said Wednesday that the Greens party should stop talking "nonsense" if it wants to be part of a future German government.

Mr. Schröder and other Social Democratic leaders said the Greens had showed they were incapable of governing with their unpopular demands to disband NATO, triple oil prices and place limits on airplane use.

The Greens were badly bruised in municipal elections Sunday in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein, where they dropped 3.5 points, to 6.8 percent of the vote. (Reuters)

Papon's Wife Dies

BORDEAUX — The judge in the trial of Maurice Papon, the accused Nazi collaborator, adjourned the proceedings Wednesday for five days after the death of the defendant's wife.

Mr. Papon's lawyers said a verdict in the trial was expected next Wednesday night.

The presiding judge, Jean-Louis Castagnede, adjourned the trial after Papon's wife, 88, died of cancer during the night at the couple's home in Guez-Armainvilliers, a suburb east of Paris. (Reuters)

Papal-Polish Treaty

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican and Poland ratified a long-awaited treaty on Wednesday governing relations between Pope John Paul II's homeland and the Holy See.

"I hope this concordat helps improve relations between the Holy See and Poland," the Pope said.

The concordat, signed in July 1993 by Poland's then Solidarity-led government, had been blocked by leftists in Parliament for nearly five years. (AP)

Spain's New Names

MADRID — Spain is expected to adopt legislation enabling children to use the family name of either mother or father as their main surname.

At present, a Spanish citizen's surname is traditionally composed of the father's family name, followed by that of the mother.

Under the new law, which is expected to sail through Parliament, a Spaniard may choose to use the mother's name, followed by the father's. (AFP)

India Sit After To

NEW DELHI — Rescue workers in eastern India are searching for survivors of a deadly earthquake that killed at least 3,000 people and left as many as 500 people homeless.

The agency, reporting from the area, the hardest-hit district, said the main storm Tuesday night struck in West Bengal, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of Delhi.

A government official said the earthquake would probably rise as much as 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the epicenter, flattening houses and killing people.

The dead were 49 in all, including a child who was killed when he was lifted into the air and fell.

Fifty passengers of a bus were killed when it was lifted into the air and fell.

This looks like a war zone.

Factional Pins Down

KARACHI, Pakistan — Fighting between factions of a militant Islamic party set cars on fire Wednesday night, sparking a protest in the city.

The protesters, who were carrying flags of their party, said they were protesting against the government's policy of allowing the party to operate in the city.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

India Sifts Ruins After Tornadoes

NEW DELHI — Rescue workers searched hundreds of shattered huts in eastern India on Wednesday for survivors after tornadoes left at least 145 people dead — including 40 schoolchildren — and 3,000 injured. As many as 500 people were believed to be trapped under the debris of collapsed houses, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

The agency, reporting from an emergency center in Midnapore, the hardest-hit district, said 145 bodies had been recovered by Wednesday afternoon.

The main storm Tuesday devastated several villages in the district, in West Bengal state, then spun off another tornado that tore through villages in neighboring Orissa state, according to the meteorological department. The area is 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) east of New Delhi.

R. Deb, a government official in Midnapore, said the death toll would probably rise as workers combed through the debris of hundreds of mud and thatched huts.

The tornadoes flattened thousands of homes and left more than 10,000 people homeless, PTI said, quoting state police officials.

Among the dead were 40 children crushed when a school building being used as a shelter collapsed in Balasore district in Orissa, it reported.

Ten people were killed when the boat they were traveling in was lifted into the air and smashed against the banks of a river.

Fifty passengers of a bus were injured when strong winds blew it into a nearby canal. Villagers cut open the doors of the bus to rescue passengers.

"This looks like a war zone to me," Mr. Deb said.



A West Bengal mother and son at home Wednesday.

U.S. Troop Aid to Jakarta Questioned

By Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Indonesia's best-known opposition leader has challenged President Bill Clinton to explain why U.S. special-operations soldiers are training members of the Indonesian military.

"Who, in the view of the U.S. government, is the target or enemy for this specialized training?" asked Megawati Sukarnoputri in a letter on March 18 to Mr. Clinton. Noting that her country faces no foreign threat, she suggested that the troops' real targets were Indonesians protesting against their government.

The United States has been training Indonesian soldiers despite a 1992 congressional ban intended to end the instruction. Under a little-known \$10 million Pentagon program called Joint Combined Exchange and Training, U.S. Special Forces teach the Indonesians skills that include psychological warfare and urban combat techniques.

"The U.S. military is providing training in lethal methods of social control at a time when the Indonesian people are trying to build a more democratic system," said the letter, a copy of which was given to The New York Times.

"It is the explicit policy of the Indonesia security forces to meet peaceful and unarmed demonstrators with force

— and thus military training from the U.S. directly undermines the democratic movement in Indonesia."

Indonesia's military has ordered its troops to police recent political protests against the Indonesian government. Pentagon officials say the commando training increases the United States' ability to influence the Indonesian troops' respect for human rights. Mrs. Megawati's letter questioned that argument.

"In light of the U.S. government's stated support for democracy around the world, I respectfully request an explanation of this secret training program that contradicts this noble foreign policy goal," her letter concluded.

The Indonesian military is seen by many members of the government and some of the people as the most stable institution in a nation whipsawed by political corruption, skyrocketing inflation and social unrest.

But the military has been accused of a long series of abuses, including the disappearance of political opponents, and it engineered Mrs. Megawati's ouster as chairman of one of the nation's three sanctioned political parties in 1996.

Mrs. Megawati, the daughter of the former Indonesian ruler Sukarno, has become the leading symbol of dissent against the 32-year reign of President Suharto.

Congress cut off funds that went to

Indonesia, under a program called International Military Education and Training, in 1992, after Indonesian troops massacred more than 270 civilians on the island of East Timor.

But the Pentagon continued its instruction in Indonesia under the Joint Combined Exchange and Training program.

Protest Turns Violent

An anti-government demonstration by about 1,000 students turned violent Wednesday, leaving at least 10 security personnel and 39 protesters injured, according to witnesses quoted by The Associated Press.

About 300 police officers and soldiers used sticks and clubs to beat back groups of rock-throwing students who tried to stage an illegal street march from the state-run March 11 University in Solo, 400 kilometers (250 miles) east of Jakarta.

Solo's police chief, Lieutenant Colonel Imam Suwangsa, said that 10 officers were injured by stones.

Witnesses said that security personnel fired at least three volleys of tear gas at the crowd, but the police denied this.

It was the most violent clash so far in a series of student protests against the government of President Suharto, who is battling Indonesia's worst economic crisis in 30 years.

Factional Fighting Pins Down Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan — Feuding factions of a minority ethnic party set cars and buses on fire Wednesday, shutting down Pakistan's largest city in a protest over the killing of their members this week.

All day, activists from the two factions roamed Karachi's eastern district burning vehicles, blockading roads and warning store owners to keep their shops closed.

Two days of violent clashes between rival factions of the Muhajir National Movement, representing Indian Muslim migrants to Pakistan, has left 21 people dead, including a policeman.

The battle between a larger faction, led by its exiled leader, Altaf Hussain, and a smaller group began Monday when gunmen attacked the office of the smaller faction and killed three workers.

That sparked two days of shooting that terrorized the eastern district of Karachi. Bands of heavily armed activists from both sides ran

through the streets choosing targets and shooting them. Activists from both factions were pulled from their homes, taken out on the street and killed, the police said.

Hundreds of paramilitary rangers and police were patrolling the area Wednesday. Armored personnel carriers and dozens of police in armor-plated vans were in the streets, witnesses said.

A strike also disrupted life in Hyderabad, 160 kilometers (100 miles) northeast of here, and partial shutdowns were reported in the cities of Sukkur, Nawabshah and Mirpur Khas in southern Sindh Province. Sources said that major shopping centers and wholesale markets were closed and that vehicles stayed off the roads.

The Karachi Stock Exchange halted trading three hours early because of thin attendance, brokers said.

The ethnic party split in 1992. Since then hundreds of people have died in factional fighting. (AP, AFP)

BRIEFLY

Brunei Prays for End to Fires

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei — The government closed schools Wednesday for two weeks, and Sultan Mada Hassanal Bolkiah led mass prayers for rain to put out forest fires in Indonesia that have cast a blanket of smog over the country.

The sultan joined religious leaders, ministers and thousands of other people at prayers at a mosque here.

Brunei largely escaped last year's cloud of smog from the raging Indonesian fires that enveloped much of Southeast Asia. But blazes in the drought-stricken sultanate on Borneo Island, as well as in the Indonesian and Malaysian sections of the island, have periodically covered Brunei with smog since the beginning of the year. (Reuters)

Taiwan's Aviation Chief Quits

TAIPEI — Taiwan accepted the resignation on Wednesday of its civil aviation chief, after the island's worst air disaster and a series of subsequent incidents, government officials said.

The director of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, Tsai Duei, had offered to resign hours after the China Airline crash Feb. 16 that killed 202 people. But the government insisted he stay on to oversee the inquiry.

But pressure for Mr. Tsai's resignation became too much after a series of subsequent incidents involving other aircraft, so Premier Vincent Siew's cabinet finally let him go, officials said. (Reuters)

Ranariddh's Backers Checking

PHNOM PENH — Supporters of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the ousted co-prime minister, arrived in Phnom Penh on Wednesday to check on security and other arrangements for the prince's return next week.

The prince is due to return from Bangkok on Monday under the terms of the Japanese-brokered peace plan aimed at ending factional fighting and ensuring that he can take part in a July 26 election.

His security is a major concern of his supporters and the international community, but a senior member of the Phnom Penh government, co-defense minister Tea Banh, said that security arrangements were ready. (Reuters)

Koreas Resume Food Aid Talks

BEIJING — Red Cross delegates from the rival Koreas resumed talks on food aid Wednesday that broke down in December because of disputes over how to ensure shipments of grain reach the most needy.

Negotiators for the South Korean Red Cross were asking for guarantees on food distribution but would not insist that South Korean monitors accompany the deliveries to North Korea, said Johan Schaar of the International Federation of the Red Cross.

"It cannot be done at this stage," he said. "I don't think the time is ripe yet for South Korean monitors."

Monitoring delivery of relief supplies remains a crucial concern for South Korea and other donor nations because of worries that the North's Communist government may be diverting foreign food aid to its 1.1-million-member army. (AP)

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Crystal Ball Sort of Cloud After Yeltsin Shake-Up
By Daniel Williams

MOSCOW — It is unclear how much of the political maneuvering surrounding Russia's presidential election will be a result of a shake-up in the government or a reflection of the country's political climate.

The election, scheduled for May, is expected to be a close race between President Boris Yeltsin and his challenger, Vladimir Lukin, a former foreign minister.

Yeltsin's government has been in a state of flux since he was elected in 1996. Several key ministers have been dismissed or resigned, and the government's policies have been inconsistent.

Lukin, on the other hand, has been a vocal critic of Yeltsin's government and has gained support among the opposition.

The election is seen as a referendum on Yeltsin's leadership and the state of the Russian economy. It is also expected to be a turning point in the country's political development.

Analysts are watching for signs of a "shake-up" in the government, which could indicate a change in direction for Yeltsin's administration.

The political climate in Russia is highly volatile, and the election is expected to be a highly contested affair. The outcome will have significant implications for the country's future.

INTERNATIONAL

In East Africa, U.S. Signals That Full-Fledged Democracy Can Wait

By James C. McKinley Jr.
New York Times Service

KAMPALA, Uganda — When President Bill Clinton walked into a conference with East African leaders here on Wednesday afternoon, he did what American presidents usually do in the Third World: preach the virtues of free markets, democracy and civil liberties.

But Mr. Clinton's decision to hold the conference in Uganda had already sent another strong signal: that the United States is embracing a new generation of leaders in the region who care less about establishing full-fledged democracies than they do about developing their countries.

The unofficial standard-bearer for this group is Yoweri Museveni, a former guerrilla fighter who rescued this lush Central African country from political chaos and economic collapse over the last decade but does not allow party politics. The others in the group include

the presidents of Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Congo, the former Zaire. These leaders say they want more trade and investment from the United States, but they do not want to be told how to govern.

And while American officials maintain that they are still advocating democracy, they acknowledge that their overriding goal in the region is to support leaders who not only manage their governments well but also can somehow stanch the seemingly endless rebellions, famines, refugee crises and economic disasters that have cost the West billions to fix over the years.

From this perspective, Lieutenant General Museveni is a model leader. His style of self-reliant government, fiscal discipline and free-market economics has made him the darling of U.S. diplomats, who are trying to remold America's role in Africa to replace costly and paternalistic aid programs with more trade and investment.

"You have a new type of leadership, particularly on the economy, and he has more of a regional vision," an American diplomat said. "You're looking at a group of people who find African solutions to African problems."

But the American support in recent years for General Museveni and the others in this generation has opened up the United States to charges of double standards from older allies, especially Kenya. A staunch ally of America during the Cold War, Kenya has a much more advanced democracy than Uganda, having held two all-party elections in the last 10 years.

Still, Washington has battered President Daniel arap Moi recently because he has done a poor job managing the economy and has not cleaned up the rampant corruption in his government.

States has moved closer in recent years — Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Rwanda — have yet to set up bona fide pluralistic political systems.

While Uganda has experienced its longest period of peace and economic development in decades, the region as a whole is far from peaceful. One reason for this is that General Museveni and the other leaders in this group have not been shy about supporting armed rebellions in neighboring countries.

The war in southern Sudan is entering its 15th year with no sign of abating, partly because recent rebel advances have been helped along by Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea. In Rwanda and Burundi, civil wars between the Hutu majority and Tutsi minority, touched off when Uganda-backed Tutsi rebels invaded Rwanda in 1990, continue to take hundreds of lives a week.

In Uganda, a terrorist campaign by Christian fundamentalist rebels in the north has persisted with heavy Sudanese

support. In eastern Congo, the self-proclaimed president, Laurent Kabila, who came to power last year with Ugandan and Rwandan support, is facing new uprisings from rebel movements allied with Hutu insurgents in Rwanda and Burundi. Somalia remains a fractured mess of warring clans with no central government.

It was against this backdrop that Mr. Clinton met with heads of state at Entebbe on Wednesday afternoon. Neither the Burundi military leader, Pierre Buyoya, nor the Sudanese president, Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Ahmad Bashir, were invited. Nor were there any Somali representatives at the table. As a result, little progress on solving the region's many conflicts could be expected.

Still, most American policymakers see Mr. Museveni and the others in the new generation as the best hope for East Africa's future. They contend that these leaders have supported insurrections in other countries only when they would create greater stability in the long run.

As long as these African leaders make some headway toward democracy, or show a willingness to keep working toward it, America can live with them, U.S. officials said.

"All these countries are in some sort of a transition," a U.S. government official said. "It's not that we have a double standard. It's that we have varying standards based on historical context."

But there is another reason for the United States' stance. With the Cold War won, Islamic fundamentalism has become the new perceived threat to American interests in the region, and the Islamic government in Sudan has been harboring Muslim terrorists and financing rebel movements throughout the region.

By backing Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea, the United States has isolated Sudan and put pressure on its government. All three countries are now receiving American military aid and are in turn helping rebels in southern Sudan.

At a South African School, Revival of Apartheid Rage

A Tangle of Racial Issues Sparks an Explosion

By Lynne Duke
Washington Post Service

VRYBURG, South Africa — It seemed like a flashback to the ugly apartheid past last month when white parents, armed with whips and seething with anger at resurgent black activists, charged into Vryburg High School and attacked several black students.

Then things went from bad to worse. White and black students beat each other up over several days. White policemen and black policemen fell out and exchanged blows, too. Criminal charges were filed. Court orders were lodged. The army was called in to buttress the police. And tensions in this fading cattle town 250 miles west of Johannesburg reached such a fever pitch that security forces opened fire with rubber bullets and tear gas last week to stop thousands of black protesters who stoned the police, threw fire-bombs and set several cars on fire.

The center of it all, the formerly all-white Vryburg High, now is shut down and ringed by a wall of razor wire — the latest unsettling symbol of just how

fragile South Africa's new democracy is in the nation's remote reaches. While school integration has proceeded without violence in most parts of the country, Vryburg and other small towns where repression of blacks once was fastest have become battlegrounds for old antagonisms and conflicting new rights.

The conflict revolves around a tangle of racial, linguistic and constitutional issues that tests how well South Africa can balance the interests of the nation's white minority with those of the black majority since the dismantling of apartheid and the advent of democracy in 1994.

Blacks students and their supporters in the town want an end to white domination of the school's administration and to the use of Afrikaans — the language of Afrikaners, descendants of the nation's early Dutch settlers — as its primary medium of instruction.

"We just want to show them that we are prepared to fight for our rights in that school," said Shadrack Bosman, 18, a black student leader. "It's not a white man's world like before, and we will see that South Africa doesn't go back."

The Reverend Kobus Venter, chairman of the school's all-white governing body, which was disbanded last week, said he regretted that white parents had attacked the black students. But "they were driven to it," he said, because of black student indiscipline and intimidation aimed at white adults, including a disputed allegation that black student leaders tried to take Mr. Venter and the school's principal hostage if they did not meet student demands.

"We are making a stand, that's for sure," he said. "All we ask is, Can we

save for the future what has been ours for 100 years?"

As in many educational conflicts in the new South Africa, the dispute at Vryburg High pits black Africans against white Afrikaners, who created the apartheid system of racial separation. Since the fall of apartheid, many Afrikaners have become bitter watching the privileges of racial exclusivity being challenged.

Afrikaners, a majority of South Africa's 12 percent white population, are an insular group that treats Afrikaners as a symbol of cultural strength. The Vryburg Afrikaners want the high school to maintain classes in which only those who speak Afrikaans are allowed. Vryburg's population of 55,000 roughly reflects the nation's racial proportions, with 43,000 blacks, 7,000 mostly Afrikaner whites and 5,000 mixed-race coloreds.

Vryburg High, which is more than 100 years old, is one of many schools that once were exclusively for Afrikaners. Compared with black schools that were purposely under-financed, overcrowded and neglected under apartheid, the Afrikaner schools had better equipment, better resources and better-trained teachers.

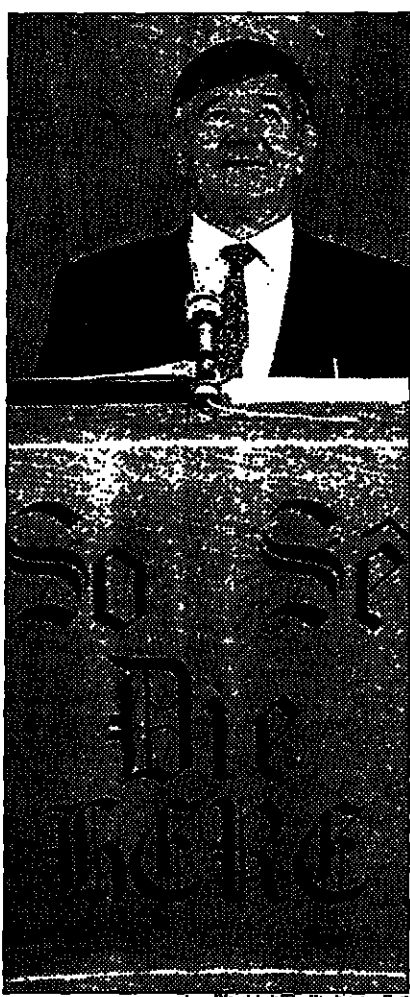
When South Africa's new constitution outlawed discrimination in the schools on the basis of color, black students began attending Afrikaner schools in the hope that they would get a better education.

But because the constitution also guarantees education in the language of one's choice, newly integrated schools were divided to accommodate language differences. Thus, at Vryburg High, 600 students — including 40 blacks and 25 coloreds — attend the Afrikaans language stream, and 180 students — all black — attend the English stream.

The Afrikaans side of the school has equipment, including science and computer labs and a music room, that the English side does not have. Black students say they are excluded from using this equipment because they are not Afrikaans speakers.

Several black students, who said they were not particularly interested in learning how to shoot, said they also are excluded from using the school's shooting range, which has rifles and handguns for student use.

Mr. Venter denied that the black students are prevented from participating in the labs or the marksmanship exercises. A spokesman for the national education department, Khume Khangane, expressed surprise about the shooting range and said he had not heard of such amenities at other schools. The presence of a range on school grounds is a telling aspect of the culture here, where firearms are an integral part of rural Afrikaners' lives. But the black students say the range makes them nervous, especially after last month's attack by the white parents.



Kobus Venter in the pulpit of his church in Vryburg, South Africa.

LEBANON: Skepticism on Israeli Plan

Continued from Page 1

has thrown both Syria and Lebanon on the defensive. Syria, with 35,000 troops in Lebanon, has long supported Shiite Muslim guerrillas fighting to eject Israeli troops from the south, the last active battlefield in the Arab-Israeli conflict. An Israeli withdrawal would effectively deprive Damascus of its one remaining military card in its struggle to regain the Golan, which Israel seized in 1967.

But Lebanon also has compelling reasons to hold out for a comprehensive peace — one that includes a plan for the resettlement of 350,000 Palestinian refugees now living here as unwelcome guests. In today's climate of hostility, moreover, the government is unwilling to take on the responsibility of policing Israel's border, fearing that Israel would respond to any security breaches by retaliating against the entire country.

"Israel wants us to be accountable vis-à-vis Israel," said Mr. Hariri, who became prime minister in October 1992. "If Netanyahu wants security cooperation, he should sign a peace treaty."

With Israelis increasingly weary of their costly entanglement in Lebanon, Mr. Netanyahu has endorsed a proposal by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai under which Israel would withdraw in exchange for the security pledges. Lebanon would also be required to guarantee the safety of the South Lebanese Army, a Christian militia that serves alongside Israel's forces.

Appearing with Mr. Annan at a news conference in Jerusalem on Tuesday,

CLINTON: He Says U.S. Must Share Blame for Rwanda Genocide

Continued from Page 1

he said nothing, apparently unable to speak. He simply nodded for the next speaker to begin.

The stories, Mr. Clinton said later, showed anew "the capacity of people everywhere — not just in Rwanda, and certainly not just in Africa — to slip into pure evil."

While acknowledging that the world had been slow to confront the evil, Mr. Clinton said the problem was one of information.

"All over the world," he told his audience, "there were people like me sitting in offices, day after day after day, who did not fully appreciate the depth and the speed with which you were being engulfed by this unimaginable terror."

But some Rwandans in the audience, as well as some U.S. human-rights activists, said Mr. Clinton was letting himself off too easily.

The information was there about the volume and the nature of the killings, said Janet Fleischman, an Africa specialist at Human Rights Watch in Washington.

"What was lacking was the political will," she said. "And there is still a question of whether there will be political will in the future."

But she added, "The president obviously deserves credit for going to Rwanda and speaking directly about the genocide."

Human-rights activists, as well as the several hundred Rwandans gathered in an airport conference room to hear Mr. Clinton, applauded his assessment of the origins of the Rwanda genocide. It resulted, he said, not from centuries-old tribal antagonisms but from a deliberate policy pursued by Hutu leaders of inciting their followers to violence.

The original itinerary for Mr. Clinton did not include a Rwanda stop. It was added as administration officials decided that Mr. Clinton, who is devoting most of his trip to hailing the positive changes in Africa over the past decade, could not credibly avert his gaze from recent horrors.

The Africa trip over the past couple days has evolved into something of a contrition tour. On Tuesday in Uganda,

Mr. Clinton said America "wronged Africa by its participation in the slave trade, and by treating African nations as pawns in Cold War rivalry."

But his assessment of Rwanda on Wednesday was different; Mr. Clinton was referring to an episode that occurred during his own tenure.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was the first to acknowledge, on a visit to Rwanda in December, that the U.S. administration was slow to publicly declare the Rwanda killings a genocide — a judgment that would have mandated an international intervention.

In the end, U.S. officials did invoke the genocide label, and Mr. Clinton ordered a military operation to help victims. But these decisions came in the summer of 1994, after most of the murders were over.

On Wednesday, Mr. Clinton also announced a "Great Lakes Justice Initiative" for Rwanda and its neighbors that will funnel \$30 million of U.S. funds to the region to strengthen the rule of law. He pledged \$2 million for a newly created International Genocide Survivors' Fund.

Other Schools Recall Similar Attacks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The gunfire that killed four students and a teacher in Arkansas revived memories of earlier attacks at schools in Mississippi, Kentucky and Scotland.

"I have cold chills," said Barbara

McGinty, assistant principal at Heath High in West Paducah, Kentucky, where three girls were killed and five classmates were wounded in December when a student opened fire on a student prayer group.

Gwen Hadley, whose 14-year-old daughter, Nicole, was among those killed at Heath High, said: "We are getting better. But this is something we, or the parents of the victims in Jonesboro, will never get over."

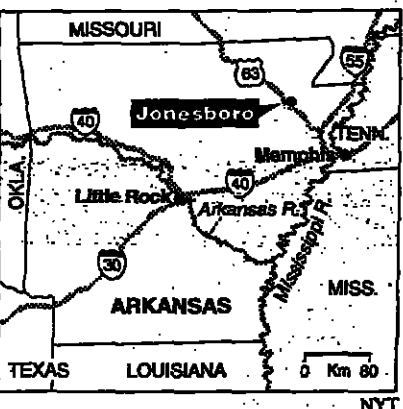
Karen McCusker, a school district spokeswoman, said: "When I heard the first little bit about it, that was the first thing I said: Maybe we need to call them. We've been there. Any advice we can give, feel free to call us."

The attack Tuesday in Jonesboro, Arkansas, "brings everything back as if it were yesterday," said Charlie Clydesdale, whose 3-year-old daughter, Victoria, was among 16 children killed in a gunman's attack two years ago in Dunblane, Scotland.

"I just wish I could go and give them all a cuddle and tell them it will get easier with time," Mr. Clydesdale said. "Isn't it time the world learned to watch what they are doing with guns? Have any lessons been learned since Dunblane?"

Since then, Britain has adopted some of the world's toughest gun laws, including a complete ban on handguns.

At Pearl, Mississippi, Roy Ballentine,



a principal, said he expected students to send cards and other tokens of sympathy to Jonesboro, just as they responded to the West Paducah shootings.

"When you've gone through something like this and experienced like our students have, it hardens you where you can deal with it more easily," Mr. Ballentine said.

"Nothing seems like a surprise like it used to."

Two Pearl students were killed and seven were wounded at the school in October. A 17-year-old, a former boy friend of one of the girls who died, was charged with murder and also was charged with stabbing his mother to death.

SCHOOL: Ambush Stuns Arkansas City

Continued from Page 1

reported absent Tuesday but that she was aware of no previous disciplinary problems. School officials had heard no reports of the threats the boys allegedly had made, she added.

Several guns were seized at the scene of the shooting, and the police later found others, though they did not say where. Some victims bore marks of both large caliber and small caliber ammunition, leading authorities to surmise that both of the suspects fired simultaneously.

"There were rifles and handguns, some were semiautomatic," said Bill Sadler, a state police spokesman.

It was not clear where the boys obtained the guns.

A hearing on detention of the boys, pending a full hearing on the charges, was scheduled for late Wednesday. Brent Davis, the local prosecutor, said the youths would face five charges of capital murder and several charges of aggravated assault.

The scene outside the school Wednesday was somber. Wreaths and flowers were placed outside the one-story school. Parents, teachers and students stood sobbing or spoke in subdued voices. Many came for counseling.

Workers were hosing blood off a white sidewalk in front of a tan cinder-block wall bearing the pockmarks of gunfire. Reporters were told they would have to leave school grounds by 3 P.M. to reduce distractions to mourners and "aid the healing," said Grover Cooper, the school superintendent.

When the alarm sounded Tuesday, students filed outside and soon heard what many at first thought were firecrackers. Then students began to fall, others screamed, dived to the ground or sought shelter. The school doors, however, lock automatically and students were left exposed. As many as 27 shots were fired.

"After we started running, they started shooting faster just so they could shoot people," said Erica Swindle, 12.

Parents, hearing of the shooting, rushed to the school in horror.

The shots were fired from a grassy rise perhaps 50 yards from the school, behind a chain-link fence. The police arrived at the school within four minutes and arrested the youths as they ran through the wooded area, apparently toward a white van parked nearby. The authorities said they had determined the identity of the van's owner but would not release it.

The authorities appeared to be discounting early speculation that a third youth had pulled the fire alarm. One witness said the alarm was pulled by one of the suspected shooters, who then ran outside to begin shooting.

"There is not a third suspect being sought," Mr. Sadler said.

Many people were shocked to learn that the two youths cannot, under Arkansas law, be held beyond their 21st birthdays unless they misbehave in detention. Most are usually turned out the system by age 18, however, because of a lack of facilities. Many states have lowered the age at which a suspect can be tried as an adult, in some cases to 16 or 14.

Arkansas has no law prohibiting minors from possessing shotguns or rifles, although people younger than 21 are barred from having handguns.

The boys in Jonesboro will face no regular trial, but most likely a closed hearing before a judge in a juvenile court. If the judge finds them to be delinquents, he can issue a maximum sentence of detention in a youth center at the age of 21.

Although a recent study found that America's schools are relatively safe, concern has spread over the young age of those who in recent months have opened fire on their classmates at four schools and the seeming sense of cold indifference with which they do so.

Large urban schools had far higher rates of violent crime than smaller rural and suburban schools like the Jonesboro school. One in three of the biggest schools reported serious violent crime, compared with only 4 percent of smaller schools.

BRIEFLY

Iran Charges Saudis Harass Pilgrims

TEHRAN — Saudis are harassing Iranian pilgrims in Medina, seizing their prayer books and copies of the Koran, the Islamic holy book, an Iranian official charged Wednesday.

The head of Iran's pilgrimage affairs, Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi Rezaei, accused "suspicious and backward elements" in Medina of insulting Iranians and expelling them from shrines, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported here.

Ayatollah Rezaei did not identify these persons, but he was believed to be referring to Saudi Arabia's fundamentalist religious police.

Most Iranians belong to the Shiite sect of Islam, while most Saudis belong to the Sunni sect. Saudi Arabia's fundamentalist government bans the study of Shiite Islam, which it considers inferior.

Algiers Prelate Asks Clemency in Killing

ALGIERS — The archbishop of Algiers appealed Wednesday for clemency for seven Islamic militants who have been sentenced to death for

the murder of the Roman Catholic bishop of Oran in 1996.

"It is natural for the courts to do their duty to protect society, but we do not want the death sentence to be carried out," Archbishop Henri Teissier said in an interview on state radio. "There is a problem with the death sentence, especially since those convicted were not directly responsible for the murder but were accomplices."

Although the death sentence has been handed down frequently as Algeria's government has fought a Muslim insurgency, no executions have taken place in five years. (AP)

Argentine Bill Gains

BUENOS AIRES — The Chamber of Deputies has voted unanimously to repeal laws that absolved junior and middle-ranking officers who were convicted of human rights abuses in the 1970s.

However, the bill, which must go to the Senate, has only symbolic value, because the officers cannot be ordered to face new trials on the same charges.

The government says 9,000 people disappeared during the "dirty war" on leftists and dissidents from 1976 to 1983. Human-rights groups put the figure at close to 30,000. (AP)

ISRAEL: Annan Delivers a Stern Message

Continued from Page 1

that take from Palestinians their homes, their land, their jobs, their residence permits — their very dignity."

"Friends, I ask you to accept that the great mass of world opinion, including many countries that are sympathetic to Israel and to the Israeli dilemma, genuinely feels that Israel is doing a great disservice to its cause and to its standing by persisting with these practices," he said.

"And, that despite its position of strength — economically, militarily and scientifically — Israel has not seemed ready for reasonable compromise. The promise of 1993 has become the crisis of expectations of 1998, for both peoples."

Focusing his aim more closely on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Mr. Annan said that almost every Arab leader he had met before coming to Israel was "skeptical about the good faith of the current Israeli government," and suspected that the conditions Israel placed on any progress "masks an unwillingness to carry out your side of the bargain."

"I have found, in short, a crisis of confidence," Mr. Annan said. The secretary-general came to Israel after first visiting the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, where he warned Yasser Arafat against placing great hopes in him, describing

himself as "a magician without tricks."

For the Israeli government, the greatest interest in his visit was his potential role in advancing Israel's diplomatic efforts to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon. Mr. Annan reportedly discussed the question with the Syrians and the Lebanese before coming to Israel. But apart from hailing the initiative, he was cautious in assessing its chances.

For many Israelis, however, the major interest was in the very fact of a UN chief's visiting the country that has taken the brunt of so many blows from the world assembly, most notably the 1975 General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with fascism — a vote Mr. Annan described as "the low point in our relations." It was rescinded in 1991.

During a visit to Parliament, Mr. Annan was subjected to some reproaches from the speaker, Dan Tichon. "Our days have been filled with a series of threatening attacks and unbalanced, condemning decisions," he said. "The strategy of isolating Israel and delegitimizing her will bring about nothing."

But it was Mr. Annan's rejoinder, playing on the Hebrew initials for UN, that won the louder applause: "In today's interdependent world, without the UN we shall have 'cloom' — Hebrew for 'nothing.'"

Similar Attacks



Ambush Stuns Arkansas City

Almaty, June 4-5, 1998

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

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A Presidency Acclaimed

For Americans accustomed to the idea of a diminished presidency, the sight of Bill Clinton addressing a cheering crowd of half a million people in Ghana and being effusively welcomed in Uganda must seem a wonder. It suggests that the majesty of the American presidency has never been greater even though this president is engulfed by troubles in Washington. For Mr. Clinton, the journey across Africa, and visits that he will soon make to Latin America, Europe and Asia, provide relief from the siege at home.

In Uganda on Tuesday he forthrightly expressed regret for America's role in African slavery. Like Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and other men who sought to repair damaged presidencies by going abroad, Mr. Clinton commands a degree of adulation in foreign lands that he cannot match in the United States. The aura of power is enhanced by the resplendent Boeing 747 that now serves as Air Force One, and by a traveling party of some 800 people, including White House aides, security agents, members of Congress, corporate executives and reporters.

But it is not just the presidential airplane and entourage that are larger today. The international symbolism of the presidency is as well. With the end of the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the arrival of the electronic age, America plays a greater

role in the world than it ever has before. If this has been the American Century, it has never seemed more American than in its final decade.

When Mr. Clinton goes abroad, he does so as the leader of a nation unrivaled in its prosperity, technology, military might and cultural influence. That can be a source of fear and resentment. Not everyone is ready to surrender to Coca-Cola, McDonald's and Microsoft, as France often demonstrates. Concern about a hegemonic America is tangible in more than a few foreign capitals, including Moscow and Beijing.

Yet America's freedoms and success are envied everywhere. Mr. Clinton carries that strength with him when he travels, and it magnifies both him and the office he occupies. It will not inoculate him from the problems that await his return to Washington, but at a moment of peril in his administration he is enjoying the radiance of the nation he represents.

Americans like to say that the presidency is bigger than one person and has a grandeur that exists above and beyond the frailties of an individual incumbent. That seems especially true now that the United States holds such a commanding position as the world's sole diplomatic and military superpower and as the linchpin of world stability.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Keep After Gadhafi

From the United Nations comes the evidence of the sheer endurance required to fight terrorism. It is nearly 10 years since a bomb allegedly planted by Libya's intelligence service blew up Pan Am 103, killing 270 passengers (including 189 Americans) and people on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland. Since then Moammar Gadhafi has never faltered in his so far successful effort to block the trial of his two operatives accused by the United States and Britain in the crime.

One of his lines of attack is to avoid the trial venue, in their own countries, where the U.S. and British governments think a fair trial is most possible. His other line is to escape the economic sanctions that the Security Council voted after the two Libyans were indicted. Here he has sought to convince other formerly colonial-ruled countries that the U.S. purpose is much less to bring the Libyan suspects to justice than to keep all the "Third World" countries down. This argument has an evident "street" appeal.

Big Bertelsmann

In a sense, there is no news in the news announced on Monday that Bertelsmann AG will purchase Random House, the preeminent American publishing company. The pending acquisition is business as usual in the publishing world, except, perhaps, for the fact that Bertelsmann is a German media conglomerate.

Bennett Cerf, co-founder of Random House, bought Alfred Knopf in 1960, and in the past 20 years publishing houses have merged and remerged with such profligacy that ordinary readers no longer have any idea from what outlet in the corporate edifice the books they read have been emitted. Even not-so-ordinary readers — writers and editors — lose track, which is not surprising when you consider the bewildering number of companies with which they and their friends have been forced to deal as one publisher devours another.

As it stands, Random House is a cluster of several publishing groups,

each with several imprints, most of which, like Knopf and Pantheon, were once independent. Random House is being sold by one media conglomerate, S.I. Newhouse's Advance Publications Inc., to another. It is not as if some vestigial independence were being forsaken by this purchase, although it would give Bertelsmann a dominant share of the American market.

No, the trouble is simply how familiar this sale feels. It provokes only a sigh, which suggests how much we have come to take for granted the steady convergence of all media under ever widening corporate umbrellas.

But in that convergence, which had already occurred in the case of Random House, something is lost — call it the broadly dispersed ownership of media outlets, call it even a productive, democratic inefficiency in the marketing of information. One thing is certain. The road away from conglomerate will be a hard one to find.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Serbs Won't Give Up Kosovo

The main problem that Europeans and Americans and the rest of the international community must understand is the grave danger posed for the whole Balkan peace by the political demands of Albanians for the independence of Kosovo or for a "special republic." This demand is the spiritual and political base for terrorism. The main obligation of the international community is to force the Albanian political leaders to forget this demand. If they persist, it will provoke another Balkan war because all Serbs will protect Kosovo. Kosovo is for the

Serbs what Jerusalem is for the Jews. Serbia was born in Kosovo. You will not find one Serb who will give it up.

If war breaks out over this issue, Dayton agreement will be dead within a few hours. There will be war again in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Violence will spread to Albania itself, Macedonia and even Bulgaria.

The second obligation of the international community is to press Slobodan Milosevic to solve any problem with the ethnic Albanians at the negotiating table, not the battlefield.

Vuk Draskovic, an opposition leader in Serbia (Global Viewpoint, Los Angeles Times Syndicate).

The Yeltsin Routine: Reappear and Fire Someone

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — It is by now a matter of habit: Returning to health and office, Boris Yeltsin reaches out and fires someone to show that he is back and in charge.

No big deal, the White House and the State Department rushed to proclaim this week when he unexpectedly dumped most of his cabinet. That's Boris, Bill Clinton seemed to shrug from Africa. But that's the problem.

There was not a scintilla of national strategy in the wholesale dismissals, only his mood of the moment, and his determination not to go in any one direction for very long.

Russia today is governed by whim. Mr. Yeltsin has converted his admirable democratic re-election as Russia's president two years ago into a shambling, unpredictable autocracy where he functions as a modern czar.

Even those who have worked closely with him since he smashed the Soviet Union at the beginning of this decade cannot predict when and how his next lurch will come.

His most faithful retainer, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, seems

to have had little if any warning that he was about to be sacked and denounced on Monday for having done nothing more than carrying out Mr. Yeltsin's episodic, vague orders.

In Washington two weeks ago for his semiannual political checkup with Al Gore, Mr. Chernomyrdin seemed more firmly in the saddle than at any time since his embarrassing showing as leader of the pro-government party in the 1995 Duma elections.

The recent word from Moscow was that some of the key figures in the financial oligarchy that will control the flow of campaign funds for the presidential election in 2000 had moved into Mr. Chernomyrdin's camp. He seemed to be gaining the upper hand in the quiet but intense struggle for influence with Anatoli Chubais, the abrasive economic theorist who floats in and out of Mr. Yeltsin's favor.

These developments may have been factors in the government shake-up. Mr. Yeltsin has a pattern of knocking

down any political ally who seems to be acquiring an independent base.

Mr. Chernomyrdin's once unparalleled skills at self-effacement had slipped recently. At a Washington press conference with Mr. Gore, he obliquely but unmistakably endorsed the U.S. position that a favorable vote by the Duma on the START-2 treaty on nuclear weapons had to precede a Clinton-Yeltsin meeting this year, contradicting Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov's no-linkage position.

Or Mr. Yeltsin may simply have tired of refereeing Chernomyrdin vs. Chubais, and dispensed with both to get a little peace. In Boris Yeltsin's Russia, it could be that simple.

Such abrupt changes undermine consistency and continuity in policy. The changes may, in fact, be designed to perpetuate the status quo of corruption, confusion and conspiracy that dominates Russia's struggling economy.

Mr. Yeltsin says Mr. Chernomyrdin failed him by not paying off the months of back salaries owed to Russian workers. But he also ordered the prime minister to keep inflation low and the IMF

loans coming. Those priorities required withholding the salaries.

"Boris Yeltsin and his entourage are incapable of creating any other structures than those they learned as old party bureaucrats," said Alexander Lebed, the popular retired army general who was briefly a Yeltsin ally. "Personal loyalty is the only criterion."

General Lebed, currently a candidate in the governor's race in Krasnoyarsk and preparing to run for president in 2000, visited Washington on March 19. Mr. Yeltsin will run for another term despite his poor health and failing judgment, General Lebed predicted then.

The disowning of his government and its record reinforces the view that Mr. Yeltsin is maneuvering to protect himself, not Russia. But it is time for him to perform one last heroic service. He should renounce any ambition for a third term, and devote himself to developing not just a successor but a stable political and economic system to carry on what he began.

He should institutionalize democracy, not himself and his whims.

The Washington Post.

The West May Have to Let Indonesia Learn by Failure

By Gerald Segal

LONDON — As East Asia's economic crisis drags on, it becomes clear that there is not so much one crisis as several increasingly distinct crises.

In the first few months there was an Asian contagion — a single process in which neighbors caught the financial flu in part because confidence was lost in another country. But as aid packages have been organized and domestic reforms have begun, the communicability of disease has lessened.

In one important respect there is a serious risk of continuing Asian contagion — the moral hazard of bailing out a recalcitrant Indonesia and thereby undermining the rigor of other aid and reform packages.

Thailand and South Korea have only begun their reforms, and tougher times lie ahead.

Now is not the moment to begin thinking that there are easy ways out of these crises.

In continuing to assist an Indonesia which feels that it can avoid real reform, the risk is that other Asians will demand similarly lax terms, and international capital may drift back to an unstable Indonesia.

The time may not be far off when Indonesia should be left to go to its own way and have to contemplate the dire consequences of economic failure.

There are good reasons to try hard to help Indonesia down the road of economic and political reform. This dominant power in Southeast Asia can make a serious mess of its region if it collapses. Worries about mass migration in the millions may

be overstated, at least for the time being, but all of Indonesia's neighbors have real reason to worry about an uncontrolled flow of refugees.

There is good reason to worry that serious economic failure would lead to anti-Chinese riots.

Leaving Indonesia to stew in its own juices also risks breaking a tacit compact between the pluralist capitalist states of the West and the emerging middle classes of Indonesia. The West has a duty to stand by these forces, which in the end offer the best prospect for creating a more open and prosperous Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

For these good reasons, there has been a remarkable diplomatic effort to persuade Pres-

ident Suharto to take his IMF medicine and engage in serious reforms. The constant and correct message has been that there is no gain without pain.

But such diplomacy may be having the opposite effect. Mr. Suharto seems to read such solicitous attention as permission to avoid the tough IMF conditions intended to bring about economic and political reform.

He has assumed that the West will not let him fall, and so he can get what he wants. Hence the flirtation with a currency board, the appointment of an enemy of reform as vice president, and the selection of a cabinet designed to run reform into the sand.

The point is rapidly approaching when the IMF and the West will have to withdraw assistance — a tactic that is being gingerly explored as the

IMF continues to negotiate possible changes in terms and withhold a tranche of aid.

Prolonged failure to ensure Indonesia's compliance with tough reforms would raise serious risks. Other Asians will demand less conditionality for their aid. Western banks will in effect be bailed out for ill-considered decisions about lending to Indonesia, and thus be encouraged to be foolish in the future.

The day may be coming when the West will need to be tough on Indonesia in order to be kind to the rest of East Asia.

The writer is director of studies at the International Institute for Strategic Studies and director of Britain's Pacific Asia Programme. He contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

Listen to Kosovo's Demaci on Confederal Compromise

By Dusko Doder

WASHINGTON — As Western diplomats seek ideas to deal with the explosive Kosovo crisis, they should pay attention to the voice of an emerging ethnic Albanian politician in that unhappy province, Adem Demaci. He is known as Kosovo's Nelson Mandela.

Mr. Demaci, 62, spent 29 years in Yugoslav jails for "nationalist agitation," "hostile propaganda" and related crimes. A painstaking chronicler of human rights abuses, he was awarded the 1993 Andrei Sakharov prize by the European Parliament in Strasbourg. He is also a novelist.

He may be the politician most in tune with his people, offering the best way to prevent another Bosnia-style eruption of violence.

At the very least, we should

listen to his voice of reason and compromise. Mr. Demaci, who entered politics two years ago, is most radical in not demanding independence. He does, of course, dream of it, but he is a realist. He knows that the international community does not favor any border changes or a secession. His compromise solution is a confederation of three equal entities — Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo.

That would first mean Serbia restoring the autonomy and self-rule that were taken away by the Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic in 1989.

It is a radical departure from the course advocated by Ibrahim Rugova, 53, the Kosovo Albanians' leader — a course that has left many ethnic Albanians frus-

trated, particularly the young, who make up a large percentage of those involved in the violence of recent days.

Mr. Rugova, also a writer, with a doctorate in literature, emerged as Kosovo's leader in 1989, when Mr. Milosevic liquidated Kosovo's political and cultural autonomy and imposed direct police rule. He is a passionate believer in passive, Gandhi-style nonviolence.

Under his direction, ethnic Albanians went underground. They created a parallel state, holding underground elections, setting up their own schools and hospitals, collecting taxes. And they practiced nonviolent disobedience.

It has been a remarkable exercise in disciplined civic re-

sistance. But it has taken its toll on people's psyches. Many young people see no future, nowhere to go, a restricted life in a self-created prison, one they would like to break out of.

Mr. Rugova's objective, Kosovo's independence, has remained elusive. It has been like a person going on hunger strike, suffering, and nobody taking any notice. Foreign nations including the United States are not prepared at this point for an attempt to redraw the map of the Balkans. That could light a fuse touching off a host of nationalist uprisings.

One key concern is the future of neighboring Macedonia, a weak new country with a large Albanian minority who also would like their freedom.

The emergence of the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army, which has attacked Serbian police, has captured the imagination of the young. Unlike Mr. Rugova, Mr. Demaci has endorsed these attacks as justified.

He may be the best figure to forge a new approach. If he can win the backing of his people, Outside attention would help him to do that.

No advocate of violence himself, he has denounced Mr. Rugova's passivity and inflexible ethnic nationalism. This policy, he said, is the source of "all our political failures." Mr. Rugova, although respected, is an increasingly isolated figure.

Mr. Demaci's confederation idea offers new possibilities for creative diplomacy. It would increase Washington's leverage on Mr. Milosevic, who remains the main obstacle to a stable peace in the Balkans. The dictator could not use the threat of Kosovo secession to whip up nationalist support.

The confederal arrangement would most likely be acceptable to a majority of Serbs — particularly since they still would be able to visit their shrines and monasteries, which are scattered throughout Kosovo. They consider the province the cradle of their civilization, even though they now make up less than 10 percent of the population there.

Above all, the emergence of a genuine nationalist figure with a flexible political program, which does not involve a breakup of a country, would strengthen those who believe that Mr. Milosevic should be forced to restore political and human rights in Kosovo.

The writer, a former correspondent who covered the disintegration of Yugoslavia, contributed this column to the Washington Post.

Under Clinton, Stocks and Porn Rise Together

By Kevin Phillips

WASHINGTON — If Kathleen Willey, Monica Lewinsky, Jennifer Flowers, Paula Corbin Jones and several Jane Doe witnesses whose names are still unknown are telling the truth, then Bill Clinton isn't correct — or irrelevant?

The truth may be that America is Clintonized, and that people don't want to rock the moral or economic boat.

Who cares about whether the president lied or the rich are getting too much, when mutual funds keep going up? Who cares about whether some White House aide got groped, when Americans bought or rented 600 million — yes, 600 million — "adult" videos last year?

Forget jokes about the first zipper. This guy is what the new America is all about.

If indulgence toward speculative finance, bank bailouts and runaway stock valuations is part of a bigger bubble made up of permissiveness, sexualized officeholders and rampant amorality, then we could see the political equivalent of a triple-whining hour: Clinton ratings, stock indexes and skirt lengths all falling together. This is the last thing Mr. and Mrs. Mutual Fund Investor want.

When the Lewinsky scandal broke and a few crazy Puritans started speculating about impeachment, Americans collectively pushed the "hold" button. The Ozark Casanova's ratings actually rose 10 points, and so did the number of people who identified America as being on the "right track."

aberration, when people don't care if the man in the White House lies?

The "right track" numbers, like Mr. Clinton's job ratings, ballooned in January in an obvious rally-round effect. Retaining both Mr. Clinton and his market-pampering economics, notwithstanding the odd item, may well be what "right track" really means.

To paraphrase Herbert Hoover's promise to America, Mr. Clinton's remake would be a pair of up-22-percent mutual funds in every portfolio and a bimbo in every water bed — or at least a Karma Sutra tape in every VCR. And you gotta say: The man is delivering.

If there were such a thing as a Tawdrometer, the needle would be well in the red. What we seem to have is a United States, despite a few quakes, that is essentially coming out of its own closet with values that aren't far off Mr. Clinton's.

Ironically, the moral critique of Mr. Clinton is probably weightier now than three or four years ago, when he had 35 percent job approval and generated a level of intense hostility.

Today's critical difference seems to be twofold. First, the new level of prosperity. Second, the apparent loosening of morals that often accompanies surging financial markets.

Go-go finance and go-go morality reinforce each other. In the late-1960s bull market, the old adage came true: The

striking in the Roaring '20s, when the rising headlines and rising stock market averages were accompanied by the growing number of speak-easies and the early investment trusts and Ponzi schemes. This created the biggest bubble of them all, plus the crash of 1929 and the Great Depression.

The 1990s have essentially the same parallels — adult video sales and Internet porn are keeping pace with the Dow Jones — and we have a Democratic president with a unique background. He grew up in Hot Springs, Arkansas, a gambling town known for loose money, loose women and loose law enforcement — and killjoy Puritans say he still bears its stamp.

Certainly, his economic policy is as permissive to Wall Street and multinational corporations as his moral flexibility is to Big Sur and Bel-Air. Merger mania is at peak levels, and professors are shaking their heads about antitrust law being replaced by pro-trust.

Corporate CEOs who dump 8,000 employees to cut expenses and boost their stock prices are welcome in the White House, especially if they are Clinton fund-raisers. With this kind of favoritism, talk about today's stock market being a "Clinton market" is fair enough, especially given his role in lifting both barometers — skirts and stock market indexes.

The norm, of course, is for Republicans to talk about lost

ture. But this is part of what it is to start thinking about.

If the Dow Jones stays up above 8,500, the odds are good that Mr. Clinton's job numbers will stay in the 50 to 60 percent range, even if he takes a few ethical and moral blows.

March's Tawdrometer reading is as frightening as the merger statistics, the personal debt levels and the extent to which middle-class Americans are no longer concerned about the rich getting too much and the poor too little. It's gimme, gimme.

When might permissiveness start to crumble and meaningful standards begin to regroup? Say, at 45 percent in the Gallup Poll and 4,500 on the Dow Jones industrial average.

Los Angeles Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Maine Inquiry

WASHINGTON — The Maine Board of Inquiry finds that the explosion was from the outside. It does not fix the responsibility for the explosion nor does it express any opinion as to the character of the explosive agent, but the testimony adduced goes to show that it was a powerful submarine mine. There were two explosions, the first of which was from the outside of the vessel, and that caused one of the smaller magazines to blow up.

1923: Inie de Vivre

Mr. Harry Kemp, itinerant poet and novelist, led the Bohemians in their march. The originators of the demonstration, who aimed to point out that the "joie de vivre" is a dying art in America, met with complete success.

1948: British Purge

LONDON — Prime Minister Clement Attlee outlined to the House of Commons the machinery by which the government will remove Communists from government posts in the second round of the promised that there would be

Erratic U.S. on Display

By Charles

There are many who think that the United States is a country that is always in a state of flux. This is not necessarily true. The United States has a long history of stability and continuity. However, there are times when the country's policies and actions seem erratic and unpredictable. This is often the case when it comes to foreign policy. The United States has a long history of intervention in the affairs of other countries. This has often led to confusion and uncertainty among the people of those countries. The United States has a long history of supporting democracy and human rights. This has often led to criticism from those who see the United States as a hypocrite. The United States has a long history of being a world leader. This has often led to envy and jealousy from other countries. The United States has a long history of being a country that is always in a state of flux. This is not necessarily true. The United States has a long history of stability and continuity. However, there are times when the country's policies and actions seem erratic and unpredictable. This is often the case when it comes to foreign policy. The United States has a long history of intervention in the affairs of other countries. This has often led to confusion and uncertainty among the people of those countries. The United States has a long history of supporting democracy and human rights. This has often led to criticism from those who see the United States as a hypocrite. The United States has a long history of being a world leader. This has often led to envy and jealousy from other countries.

THING MATTERS: Writing "M*A*S*H" and "Oh, God!" and Other Funny Things

Laughing Matters: On "M*A*S*H," "Oh, God!" and Other Funny Things

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TribTech

To Telecom Industry's Delight, Mobile Phones Are Talk of Finland's Towns

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

HELSINKI — For a people reputed to be taciturn, the Finns are doing a lot of talking these days — on mobile phones.

To a greater extent than anywhere else in the world, they have incorporated the portable telephone, the computer and the Internet into their daily lives.

And it isn't just business people. On the street, retirees, teenagers and children stride along with phones glued to

their ears. They use the phones not only to talk but also to send and receive short text messages, some of which are pre-programmed, like: "Send one pizza quattrostagione."

"We Finns have a reputation of being very quiet, yet when you come to town and see half the people talking to themselves everywhere, you begin to wonder

whether the cliché is over," said Mari- anne Holmlund of Nokia Group, which is based in Helsinki. Inevitably, there is a growing movement to get people to stop talking, or at least to talk more quietly in restaurants and public places.

What makes the Finns so wired up and switched on?

One answer is a fair dose of deregulation and competition in the telecommunications field, making phone rates low by European standards. Matti Mäkelä, a vice president at Telecom Finland, said lower cost was a reason Finns have more than four times as many mobile phones per capita as Germans.

But other countries, like the United States, have competitive telecommunications markets without being so hooked on cell phones.

"I think the popularity of portable phones is because we Finns are fanatical about engineering," said Timo Airaksinen, a professor of philosophy at Helsinki University. "We are a nation of engineers, but we are not so good at marketing and advertising."

Portable phones and computers, he said, appeal to the Finns' sense of efficiency and love of gizmos.

It helped that Finland was one of the countries that developed the Nordic Mobile Telephone service, which opened in 1981, becoming the world's first cellular network to span several countries.

BACK then, businessmen proudly lugged \$5,000, 10-kilogram, 1983 vintage Mobira Senator "portable" phones. Fellow Finns, Mr. Airaksinen said, saw them as "glamorous."

Finns soon spotted a practical reason for buying a phone, even at those heady prices. In summer and during weekends, they like to escape to country cottages and boats, and go hiking or cross-country skiing. Having a phone meant they could leave their desks but stay in touch — and it was often cheaper than having a fixed phone line strung to a country cabin.

Once a real product was available, the demand was immediate. Mr. Airaksinen said. In fact, the first bulky phones flew out of stores so fast that the Nokia Group, then an industrial conglomerate that made anything from rubber gaskets to electrical cables, decided to concentrate on making mobile phones and the associated infrastructure.

Last year, Nokia supplied more than 20 percent of the global market for phones and equipment, ringing up a net



Using a Nokia cell phone in Lapland.

profit of 6.2 billion markkaa (\$1.12 billion) on sales of 52.6 billion markkaa, showing that it had managed to master marketing as well as engineering.

Although its phones are ubiquitous here, Nokia still gets only 5 percent of revenue from the Finnish market. With a small population at home, Nokia had to create markets and set up factories abroad, which it did in Germany, Korea, China and the United States. Its 35,000-member staff has doubled in the past three years, about half of them Finns.

"The consumers are driving this market," said Jyrki Laine, a senior Nokia executive. "They are forcing even the monopolies to behave like private companies." He said the company's main challenge was to keep ahead of the consumers, giving them what they need at the right time.

The Finns' fascination with technol-

ogy shows no sign of abating. According to Telecom Finland's figures, 425 in every 1,000 Finns own a mobile phone — the highest market penetration in the world, followed by Norway and Sweden.

Nokia, meanwhile, has played a leading role in the development of the digital Global System for Mobile Communications, or GSM, the common cell-phone standard in Europe and much of Asia.

Much of the industry recently adopted a new common standard, partly based on Nokia technology, that will become the norm for the next generation of digital mobile phones in Europe and Asia around the turn of the century.

If the United States also adopts the standard, it means people will be able to use their portable phones almost anywhere in the world to talk, receive e-mail, surf the Internet and receive full or full-motion video pictures, perhaps creating a new market for videophones.

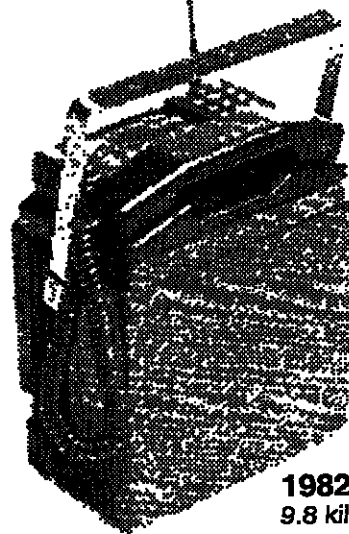
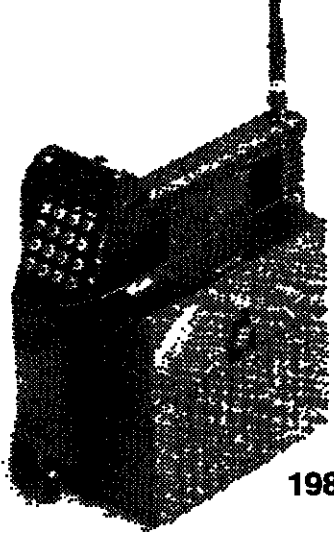
And you can bet the Finns will snap them up, too.

SITES

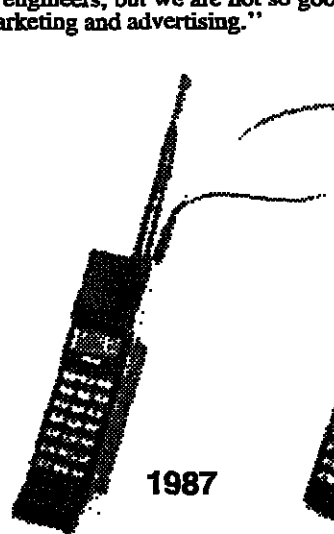
Related sites on the Internet:
A country-by-country breakdown of telecommunications statistics from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is at:
• www.oecd.org/telecom/

Personal Technology

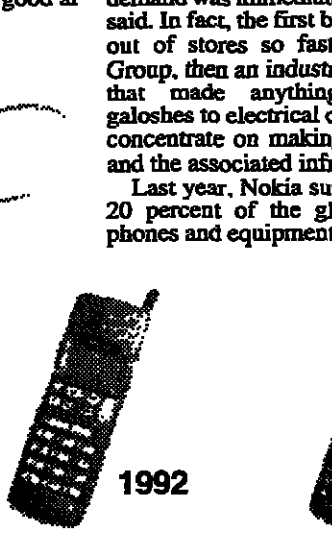
During the past fifteen years the size and weight of mobile phones have dramatically diminished while new features have been introduced

1982
9.8 kilos

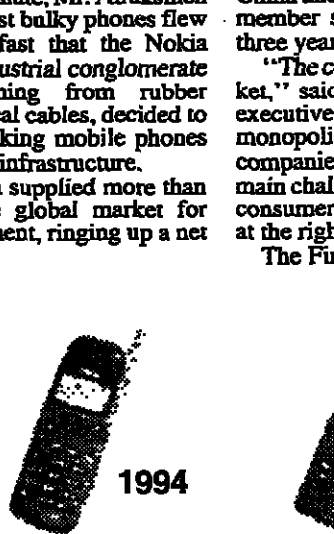
1986



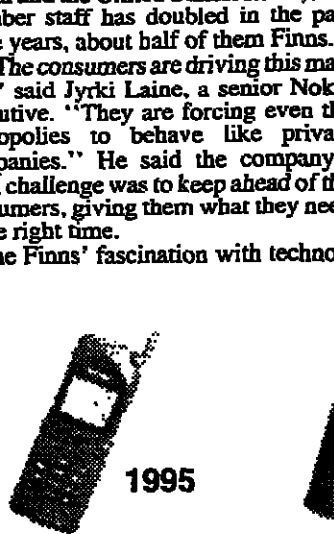
1987



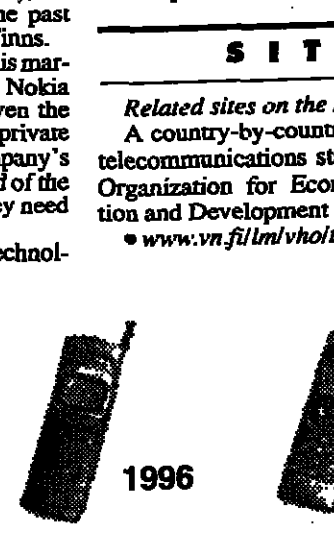
1992



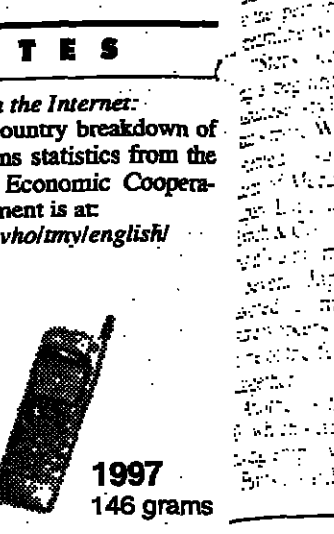
1994



1995



1996

1997
146 grams

Dawn of the Web Potatoes: Sports Fans Can Now Tune In to Internet 'Broadcasts'

By Matt Richtel
New York Times Service

It's not quite like being there. It does not even approximate television. But if you are in Fresno, California, or Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and your favorite team is in Chicago or Denver, it is the next best thing. For some sports junkies, that is a great leap forward.

Meet the Internet simulcast, the newest medium for live sports, and its fan, the Web potato. "It's obviously not TV, where you can get all excited, but for my options, it's as good as it gets," said Chris Grusz, a Seattle software salesman who uses the browser in his cubicle at work to tune into Chicago Bulls basketball games.

To some, the idea of "watching" games unfold in simple text is a likely sign of lunacy. But Mr. Grusz is among thousands who are happily tuning into

ESPN SportsZone, CBS Sportsline and a handful of smaller operations that seek to simulate games as they happen, using animation or text updates fed from the sidelines.

ESPN is set to begin its first full season of Web-based baseball coverage, while CBS is embarking on a second full season. Each offered football games last year, and ESPN recently started Gamecast for the National Basketball Association. Last year, CBS Sportsline's Baseball Live was its most popular on-line offering, attracting hundreds of thousands of viewers each game, the company said.

Perhaps more impressive, the Total College Sports Network, a division of Total Sports, based in Raleigh, North Carolina, was viewed by several hundred thousand viewers during the first weekend of the National Collegiate Athletic Association men's basketball

tournament. The 10-month-old network has provided real-time play-by-play, charts and digital photos for hundreds of college basketball, football and baseball games in the past year.

Make no mistake, the experiences are not even a distant cousin of television. CBS provides animation based on Java, an Internet language for interactive and multimedia programs. For football, an image of a football helmet moves across the field as a team marches on a drive; for baseball, animated figures round the bases as a running box score keeps a tally.

The network promises an elaborate upgrade for this baseball season. CBS is using a program called Shockwave, a multimedia application for a browser, to make the action look like an arcade baseball game.

ESPN focuses more on statistics, providing running play-by-play text,

rosters, box scores and shot charts. These Webcasts may be a harbinger of what is called convergence, the melding of television hardware and content with home computer hardware and content. In the case of sports, that means fans will be able to use one screen to get access not only to broadcasts but also to mountains of statistics.

The signs of convergence are already evident in radio, where technology that permits broadcasts to be carried over the Internet makes hundreds of games and events available to anyone with a connection, speakers and a copy of audio-streaming software such as Microsoft's Netshow or Real Network's Real Player. In baseball, at least 13 major-league teams, two dozen college teams and a handful of minor-league teams were set up for doing audio feeds as of February.

The Internet now provides audio access to many other sports: hockey, soccer, golf, auto racing, college basketball, horse racing and rodeo, among others. Audio Net, a Dallas-based Internet broadcaster, even offers play-by-play for contests broadcast exclusively for the Internet, such as events at some small universities.

There is also access to sports talk radio, where sports fans can go after they have seen the game and the highlights.

Eventually, Web simulcasts should begin to incorporate not just audio but also video streaming and still shots to create a much richer experience, said Ross Levinsohn, vice president for programming and executive producer at CBS Sportsline. But he sees that tech-



Chris Grusz of Seattle tuning in to a Chicago Bulls game via his computer.

nology as being three to six years away.

Web-based live sports today are primitive enough to be the domain of die-hard fans. Geoff Reiss, senior vice president for sports at ESPN Interactive, said:

SITES

Related sites on the Internet:
Some of the interactive sports sites are at:
• www.sportline.com/ulchat/index.html
• www.espnetsportszone.com
• www.audionet.com/sports

Baseball Plans Live Internet Broadcasts

New York Times Service

Major League Baseball plans to follow the lead of the National Basketball Association and the National Hockey League by retransmitting radio feeds live over the Internet for all 2,430 of this season's scheduled games.

The NBA and NHL are already in the midst of re-broadcasting more than 1,000 games this season. "We're averaging 500,000 unique listeners per month," said Michele Mees, the NHL's manager of public relations. "Displaced fans are the majority coming to the Internet for games."

Like the NBA and NHL, Major League Baseball will use

RealNetworks Inc.'s RealAudio technology to deliver streaming audio of the games to a worldwide audience.

Baseball's home page will provide links for each game to the home team's local radio broadcast. The broadcasts will be free to all.

A fan can also hear another call of the game by surfing to the away team's home page and tuning in the visitor's broadcast back to the home market.

"All 30 clubs will have their own Web sites this season," said Kevin Fitzpatrick, Major League Baseball's manager of new media.

ALT/Reviews

Low-Cost Portables Come With Quirks

By Stephen Manes
New York Times Service

ALTHOUGH they are not as durable as desktop models, portable computers are easily powerful enough to serve as one's only machine. You can get a slim one, a fat one, a light one, a heavy one or just about anything in between.

You can even get a fairly cheap one. Major manufacturers now offer full-fledged Windows models with the features most people need for \$1,500 to \$1,700, not including international shipping charges.

A typical bargain model has a 166-megahertz Pentium MMX processor, at least 16 megabytes of random-access memory, a 2-gigabyte hard drive, a 12.1-inch screen with 800-by-600 pixel resolution, sound capabilities, a fast CD-ROM player and a "56K" modem. (Apple Computer Inc.'s PowerBook line, running the Mac OS, has even faster, if pricier, versions.)

But recent tests of four new low-end Windows models brought home just how different they can be.

I tried the IBM Thinkpad 310ED, about \$1,600; the Toshiba Satellite 305CDS, at about \$1,700, and the Fujitsu Lifebook 765Dx, about \$1,500. I also took a quick look at a pre-release copy of the Hitachi VisionBook Plus 5000, about \$1,700. The three machines' personalities differ greatly.

• **Weight and size:** These machines weigh from just under 7 pounds (3 kilograms) (IBM and Hitachi) to seven and three-quarters (Fujitsu), excluding AC power supplies. At about

2 inches (5 centimeters) tall, they are not particularly slim.

• **Memory:** The IBM model comes with 32 megabytes of random-access memory. The others have just 16, which slows them down.

• **Screens:** The "dual-scan" screens used on these units may be their greatest drawback. Each one is different, but all have the classic problems of the genre: uneven illumination, narrow viewing angle, ghost images and disappearing cursors. The Toshiba looked best, but its lower edge was dim. The IBM's screen is backed up by 1 megabyte of video memory, half that of the others, which makes it unable to display as many colors.

• **Controls:** When you need to adjust brightness or sound, you want to touch a dial like the ones on the Toshiba. The IBM makes you hold down a function key and bang repeatedly on an arrow key; the keys do not auto-repeat in this instance.

• **Modems:** All these units come with K56flex modems either built in (Hitachi, Fujitsu) or on a PC card that comes with the unit.

• **Convenience:** Among these models, only the Toshiba includes a CD-ROM player and floppy disk drive that occupy the unit simultaneously. The others force you to swap the CD and floppy drives or connect the floppy through a cable. The Fujitsu and Hitachi units can connect to docking stations; the others cannot.

• **Keyboards:** None is entirely standard, but all are workable. I found the Toshiba's to be the easiest to adapt to,

in part because it does not try to cram in the IBM's duplicate Control and Alt keys or the Windows keys on the Fujitsu and Hitachi models.

• **Pointing devices:** The way individuals move the cursor is so personal that it may rule out consideration of some units. I demand the central pointing sticks found on the IBM and Toshiba models. Some insist on the touchpads found almost everywhere else. The Hitachi has unpleasantly skinny buttons; the Fujitsu has

Ergotrac, a springy, imprecise pointing nubbin that forces you to move your fingers off the keyboard's home row. Serial, monitor, parallel and infrared ports are standard, as are one for an external mouse or keyboard, two PC Card slots and, on all but the IBM, a single Universal Serial Bus port. The Toshiba includes a batch of Microsoft Corp. software; the others are much less generous.

THANKS to the wan screens, none of the four was delightful. I liked the Toshiba best until it failed to launch Windows once and announced a "resume failure" another time. A company representative said this show-stopping software problem had been fixed in newer versions of the model and could be solved in older ones by downloading a driver from the Web. But it is not easy to get to the Web when your machine has died.

Stephen Manes writes the *Personal Computing* column for *The New York Times*.

• **SAILING UP, UP AND AWAY:** Japan plans to send as many as 200 airships into the stratosphere by 2005 as a faster and cheaper alternative to satellite-based communications, government officials said this week.

The 260-meter-long (858-foot) airship would float 20 kilometers (12 miles) above Japan, an altitude where winds are stable. Dubbed Skyent, the project aims to provide faster transmission and allow the use of smaller mobile telephones and portable Internet computers at a small fraction of the cost of traditional satellites.

The cost of developing and launching an airship would be about 5 billion yen (\$38.4 million), about one-tenth the price of a satellite, and would have a longer life span, the officials said.

A Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications official said the airships would cut the distance that data currently had to travel when relayed via space-based satellites. Geostationary satellites that maintain a fixed position relative to the Earth have to be stationed 36,000 kilometers above the planet's surface. (APF)

• **A CHAMPIONSHIP RACE:** When runners in the London Marathon lace on their sneakers and pin on their numbers April 26, they will also have a new accessory. Each of the 31,000 racers will be required to attach a small microchip to a shoelace.

The chip, which is the size of a thumb-nail and weighs 3 grams, will help track the competitors as they run the 26.2-mile course. Dubbed the Championship, the tracking device was designed three and a half years ago by Champions Worldwide, a Dutch timing company. Each chip, which costs \$33, carries the runner's personal information, including number and running club. Throughout the course, each racer will run over strategically placed mats that will send in-

BRIEFLY

formation to a computer system that can calculate how fast the racer is going.

"The system that we are using means stewards won't have to read the runners' bar codes to give exact finishing times, even when numerous runners arrive within milliseconds of each other," said Martin Trees, marketing director of the London-based unit of Electronic Data Systems, the American computer giant that will run the tracking system. The marathon will own the chips.

Neither the marathon nor the company would say how much the project had cost. (NYT)

• **EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT:** Research sponsored by Deloitte & Touche LLP found that 91 percent of U.S. executives surveyed thought the Internet would be their key source of news by 2005, the CBS MarketWatch publication Internet Daily said this week.

Only half of the executives expected daily newspapers to be an important business news source, the survey showed. Almost three-quarters say they will also rely on e-mail for updates. The research included 409 executives from U.S. companies with revenues greater than \$1 billion. (IHT)

TECHNOLOGY INDEX

A glance at technology stock indexes around the world

North America	Tuesday close	% change previous week	% change year to date
Pacific Stock Exchange Technology	343.53	+1.95	+18.23
Standard & Poor's Technology Composite	819.02	+2.05	+17.01
Europe			
Morgan Stanley Eurotec	553.06	+2.38	+43.57
Asia			
Topix Electric	1646.23	+2.27	+0.13

Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News

For technology articles from the past week, see the Technology Index on the IHT's World Wide Web site at <http://www.ihl.com>. Articles include:

- Staring at Cebit: The Humble Phone
- Information Society/Special Report
- U.S. Company Challenges Encryption Law
- Hewlett-Packard Says Java Products
- Talking About a High-Tech Revolution: Times Are (Still) Changing
- Some Low-Tech Alternatives for Stodgy Investors
- Internet for All: Has U.S. Gone Too Far?
- Radio to the Masses: A Well-Funded Dream

To reach TribTech editors or to comment on IHT technology coverage, send e-mail to tribtech@ihl.com.

Japan Tr

Fujitsu and Mat

Two of Japan's most prominent companies have announced plans to merge.

The companies are Fujitsu and Matsushita.

The merger would create a new company, which would be the largest in the world.

The companies are both based in Japan.

The merger would be a major move for both companies.

The companies are both well-known in the U.S.

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EUROPE

OPEC to Ratify Pact On Oil-Output Cuts

Meeting Lifts Market, but Doubts Linger

By Staff Writers
SANTIAGO — An OPEC meeting on Wednesday that was expected to ratify a pact aimed at raising oil prices.

OPEC's secretary-general, Rikman Lukman, said the meeting would be Monday in Vienna "as part of efforts to stabilize the oil market." The group also said it was considering inviting nonmembers to the meeting.

Thirteen oil-producing countries in and outside OPEC have announced plans over the past week to cut production by about 1.4 million barrels a day to revive oil prices that have sunk to their lowest in almost a decade.

Oil prices rose Wednesday on news of the OPEC meeting, but many analysts remained skeptical that the reduction would materialize. Prices rose Monday on news of the pledged cutbacks but fell Tuesday as investors expressed doubts.

Dealers who are normally skeptical about the sincerity of OPEC output pledges said the fractious group's agreement to meet was evidence of some seriousness about

complying with the pact. "As long as that meeting is looming, it's enough news to keep the market from falling to the lows again," said Rikman, managing director of Arco Oil Inc.

In late trading on London's International Petroleum Exchange, benchmark Brent crude oil futures for May delivery were at \$14.84, up 31 cents from Tuesday.

But signs that some OPEC producers may differ over the interpretation of the accord's provisions kept a lid on prices.

Indonesia and Iran have said they will cut output from their OPEC quotas but not their actual production. Because these two countries produce markedly below their quotas, their announced "reductions" would have no effect on crude-oil volumes.

Saudi Arabia has said that producers involved in the accord should make cuts from their current output levels rather than from the official OPEC quotas, for a combined cut of 1.3 million barrels a day from the group. (Bloomberg, Reuters, AP)

Peugeot Posts Heavy 1997 Loss

But Shares Surge on Carmaker's Outlook for This Year

Continued From Page 11

PARIS — PSA Peugeot Citroen SA disclosed a loss for 1997 on Wednesday after heavy charges, but the carmaker had warned of the announcement in advance, and its stock surged on its forecast of a leap in operating profit this year.

Peugeot posted a net loss of 2.77 billion francs (\$452 million) that included a one-time charge of 4.4 billion francs, including 1.4 billion francs for canceling hedging contracts on the British pound. The company also took provisions to withdraw from a joint venture in India, to stop production of an aging diesel engine and to change its accounting standards.

The company had a net profit of 734 million francs in 1996.

Sales last year rose 8.1 percent to 186.8 billion francs, as foreign gains made up for a 17.5 percent drop in French car registrations. France accounts for 28 percent of Peugeot's sales.

The company said it expected to

"rapidly return to profitability," its chairman, Jean-Martin Folz, predicted operating profit would reach 5 billion francs in 1998, compared with 683 million francs last year.

That outlook sent the company's shares surging. They closed Wednesday at 1,052 francs on the Paris bourse, up 79, or 8 percent.

Peugeot, Europe's third-largest independent carmaker after Volkswagen AG of Germany and Fiat SpA of Italy, said it would pay an unchanged dividend of 3 francs a share, explaining that its 1997 loss was "nonrecurring."

"Some people thought Peugeot would eliminate the dividend," said Georges Dieng, a car-industry analyst at ABN-AMRO. "People also like the fact that for the first time the company has outlined its financial objectives."

Another analyst, Richard Litchfield at Williams de Broe in London, said of the operations forecast for this year. "The 5 billion target

is higher than most people expected and higher than what I thought operating profit would be in 1998."

Mr. Folz said the company's strategy was to combine more Peugeot and Citroen production to cut costs, reduce the number of platforms, tighten control on investment and inventories and bolster sales in the French and German markets.

Mr. Folz, who succeeded Jacques Calvet as chairman in October, reiterated Peugeot's goal of generating one-fourth of its sales outside Western Europe, compared with 16 percent in 1997.

He said the group also was striving for a more balanced sales performance in Western Europe, notably in Germany, where it has just 3.2 percent of the market, compared with 30.2 percent in France and 22.1 percent in Spain.

"We don't want to be stuck at the bottom of the charts in certain European countries," he said. (Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

Investor's Europe			
Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40	
4000	6000	3750	
3500	5500	3250	
3000	5000	2750	
2500	4500	2250	
2000	4000	1750	
1500	3500	1250	
1000	3000	750	
500	2500	250	
0	2000	0	
1997	1997	1997	
Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Change
Amsterdam AEX	1,341.25	1,330.15	+0.95
Brussels BEL-20	3,041.50	3,010.38	+3.04
Frankfurt DAX	5,065.62	5,028.24	+3.38
Copenhagen Stock Market	763.77	754.01	+9.76
Helsinki HEX General	4,277.16	4,306.66	+29.50
Oslo OBX	736.40	734.56	+1.84
London FTSE 100	5,967.80	5,983.70	-15.90
Madrid Stock Exchange	888.67	873.68	+15.99
Milan MIBITEL	23667	23722	+55
Paris CAC 40	3,893.56	3,796.54	+97.02
Stockholm SX 16	3,964.74	3,940.79	+23.95
Vienna ATX	4,426.56	4,468.81	-42.25
Zurich SPI	4,854.78	4,829.56	+25.22

Very briefly:

• Deutsche Post AG, the state company that runs Germany's 15,000 post offices, plans to buy a 22.5 percent stake in the package express service DHL International Ltd. for an estimated \$500 million as it braces for competition.

• Banca di Roma SpA reported a second-half loss of 195 billion lire (\$108.3 million), reversing profit of 50.6 billion lire a year earlier. The loss, which was smaller than expected, resulted from write-downs of the value of some assets and early retirement payments to employees.

• LCI Computer Group NV, a Dutch information-technology company, said profit from operations rose 61 percent last year, to 8.5 million guilders (\$4.13 million), largely because of acquisitions in Belgium, but a one-time charge involving a dispute with Motorola Inc. over distribution rights resulted in a net loss of 446,000 guilders.

• The European Commission allowed Britain to grant £200 million (\$335 million) in reimbursable aid to Rolls-Royce PLC to help the company develop new versions of its Trent engines for large aircraft.

• Siemens AG is negotiating with possible partners for Siemens-Nixdorf Informationssysteme AG to raise the computer unit's market share in North America and Asia, but the company said no agreement was imminent.

• The European Union appealed a trade-panel ruling at the World Trade Organization that backed U.S. complaints that Britain and Ireland were violating global agreements by raising tariffs on some computer equipment.

• Railtrack PLC, the private company that owns Britain's rail infrastructure, will invest £17 billion in tracks and stations over the next 10 years.

• Boeing Co. signed a four-year contract valued at \$163 million with the Lahav unit of Israel Aircraft Industries to supply equipment for F-15 fighter jets. (Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

SAP Seeks to Reward Staff With a 'Virtual Stock' Plan

WALLDORF, Germany — SAP AG, preparing for an ever tighter market for skilled computer employees, outlined a "virtual stock" plan Wednesday to reward its employees.

The plan would allow employees to benefit from gains in the company's share price without diluting the value of the shares, as is usually the result of plans that award newly issued shares, said Henning Kagermann, a member of the German software company's board.

SAP shares have risen more than 30 percent since the beginning of the year and nearly quadrupled in the past 18 months.

SAP said it still expected sales growth in 1998 of 30 to 35 percent but said the employee share plan

would weigh on its results. "As a global company, we see a strengthening of international competition for the best employees," Mr. Kagermann said. Having no plan "would noticeably weaken our competitive position," he said.

The "virtual" plan can take effect immediately, while a standard stock-option plan could take 18 months or more to clear regulatory hurdles, said Kevin McKay, chief operating officer of SAP America.

Under the plan, SAP will determine a fair market value for its shares based on prices over 10 days in May.

Permanent employees who have been with the company since July 1, 1996, would be entitled to payments based on the stock's appreciation during the year.

VW: Carmaker Makes Big Plans in Its Bid for Rolls-Royce

Continued From Page 11

April, VW sources said. An agreement with Vickers PLC, which owns Rolls-Royce, prevented Mr. Piech from disclosing further details.

Bayerische Motoren Werke AG, the other known suitor, would only say, "We will tender an offer at the appropriate time." A spokesman at BMW's headquarters in Munich refused to elaborate.

To set its bid apart from BMW, which already supplies engines for Rolls-Royce under contract, VW has pledged to respect the Rolls-Royce image by creating a new and powerful line of engines tailored to the cars.

Vickers PLC, the London-based defense and engineering group that is the corporate parent of Rolls-Royce, in October announced it would put the Rolls-Royce subsidiary up for sale, meaning Britain's last indigenous carmaker could fall into foreign hands.

Even if VW fails in its Rolls-Royce bid, VW says it will enter the ultra-luxury market by designing its own upscale car, possibly by acquiring Italy's Bugatti brand of racing

cars. The addition of the Rolls-Royce marque as well as its sister brand, the Bentley, to VW's line-up would play only a secondary role in the expansion planned by Mr. Piech.

In addition to new British luxury brands alongside its fleet — which includes the Volkswagen brands, Audi AG's performance cars, Spanish-built SEAT SA models and inexpensive Skoda AS cars from the Czech Republic — the company also wants to add two new lines of heavy trucks.

The new drive for ultra-wealthy customers clashes with the history of a company best known for the Beetle — the ultimate everyman's car — and other populist vehicles such as the Golf and the Microbus, a 1960s cultural symbol.

Presenting a grim view for the rest of the world's car industry, VW's chief said customers were buying 8 million fewer cars than the world's assembly plants can produce each year. That will lead inevitably to a industry shakeout and consolidation, Mr. Piech said. Analysis predicts that the trend will be accompanied by painful rounds of layoffs and closures.

VOLKSWAGEN AG
Jahrespressekonferenz 1998



Ferdinand Piech, VW chairman, during the carmaker's annual conference Wednesday.

"While in the '60s the world had 52 independent manufacturers," Mr. Piech said, "today there are only 19. Over the long term, there will be only 10 to 12 groups competing with each other."

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, March 25

Prices in local currencies.

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX index: 1,341.25

Prev.: 1,330.15

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The Associated Press

Indonesi

R. Keith B. Richburg

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Singapore Exchange Brokerless

Singapore — Singapore Exchange is considering allowing small investors to trade on the Internet, by-passing large firms.

Several investors who had complained that in their own right they were on-line brokers, as well as their exorbitant charges, were the catalyst for the move.

Singapore's largest newspaper, the Straits Times, quoted sources Wednesday as saying that the move would be effective by the end of the year. A stock exchange that had been formed it was said to be move but... confirmed.

Exchange's system will... to subscribe... offering shares... the paper said... would be limited... dollars (\$31...

Hanoi Upholds

Hanoi — Prime Minister Phan... has said that a... project awarded to... by Sumitomo Co... as planned... allegations of irregular... for the contract... Wednesday, Sing... that irregularities... the bidding.

Mr Khai said Tuesday that the... for the Phu Lai II power... awarded March 17, was... and that the government... to nothing to change it.

Questions about the \$125 million project, funded by the Over-

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Continued on Page 16

Indonesia Expects New IMF Plan to Focus on Rupiah

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in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

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(Continued)

[illegible][illegible]

WORLD ROUNDUP

Replay Fails Again

FOOTBALL In an action replay of votes at the last six National Football League annual meetings, owners voted down an attempt to bring back instant replay Wednesday. The vote was 21 to 9 for replay, two short of the 23 needed.

Replay was in effect from 1986 to 1991, but was dropped in 1992. Each year since, it has been brought up and voted down.

The New England Patriots declined to match the New York Jets' \$36 million contract offer to the running back Curtis Martin. The Patriots will receive a first-round and third-round pick in return.

Sean Gilbert, who sat out last season in a dispute with the Washington Redskins, has agreed to a contract with the Carolina Panthers that would make him the NFL's highest-paid defensive lineman.

The six-year, \$40 million deal is contingent on the Panthers' working out a compensation package with the Redskins. (AP)

Warne Grabs Record

CRICKET Sachin Tendulkar was not out on 117 at the close of play Wednesday as India reached 290 for four wickets on the first day of the third and final test against Australia in Bangalore. Shane Warne of Australia became the most successful spin bowler in test history when he bowled Rahul Dravid. It was Warne's 310th wicket and broke a tie with Lance Gibbs, the former West Indian bowler, on 309.

Michael Atherton, who has captained England a record 52 times in tests, quit Tuesday, immediately after his team lost its last seven wickets for only 26 runs to lose the sixth test against West Indies by an innings and 52 runs. West Indies won the series, 3-1.

Atherton said he would remain with the England squad for the five one-day matches against West Indies and fight for his place as a batsman. (Reuters)

French Goalie Falter

SOCCER A third-minute blunder by Lionel Letizi, the French reserve goalkeeper, handed Russia victory in a friendly in Moscow on Wednesday. Letizi, who plays for Metz, replaced Fabien Barthez, who was hurt in training on Monday. Letizi hesitated on a back pass, and Sergei Yuran darted in to dispossess him and scored from close range.

It was the first defeat for France since it lost to England last June. It was also France's first away game in 14 months. Russia has not qualified for the World Cup. (Reuters)

Trade Frenzy Grips NHL

ICE HOCKEY National Hockey League teams made a record 19 trades involving 38 players and 14 draft picks on Tuesday, the final day before the league's trading deadline. Last year, there were 18 deals and 35 players at the deadline. In all, 21 of the league's 26 teams made moves. (AP)

Serena Williams Falls In Battle With Hingis

Next Up: A Semifinal With Venus Williams

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—Serena Williams battled Martina Hingis for two hours before losing in a third-set tiebreaker.

Now it's her sister Venus's turn. Hingis will try to complete a sweep of the sisters Thursday in the semifinals at the Lipton Championships. Hingis, ranked No. 1 in the world, needed some help from a trainer to beat Serena Williams, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (7-4), in Tuesday's quarterfinals.

Venus Williams, who watched Hingis defeat her sister, advanced by beating Silvia Farina, 6-1, 6-2.

Even in defeat, Serena, 16, served notice that she's ready to join Venus, 17, as a challenger to Hingis, also 17.

"They have such a different game," said Hingis, who beat Venus in the final of last year's U.S. Open. "They both are dangerous. Venus has a better serve and hits the ball much harder. Serena is more controlled and has a better mind, but Venus is very confident."

Hingis overcame cramps in both legs, a 5-3 deficit in the third set and two match points to outlast Serena.

Serving to save the match, Hingis appeared exhausted, but she won the game to trail, 5-4. Then she made a dubious request for a trainer, complaining of leg cramps, and received three minutes of treatment.

"I think she was very nervous, so she called the trainer to get some time, get some coaching," Serena Williams said.

If you watch her matches, there's a pattern in that. If I was tired, I probably would have called for a trainer, too."

Hingis said her legs hurt, but she also confessed to gamesmanship.

"Everybody could think that," she said. "I guess there are little games. Everybody's playing games."

The strategy worked: Hingis won the next two games for a 6-5 lead.

Williams regrouped and held serve to force the tiebreaker, but she lost the last three points, including the final two on

unforced errors—a forehand long and an overhead pulled wide on match point.

"I think I tried too hard on a couple of shots," she said.

In men's fourth-round play, No. 2-ranked Petr Korda squandered his chance to overtake No. 1 Pete Sampras in the rankings next week by losing to Tim Henman, 6-4, 6-4. Sampras was eliminated Monday by Wayne Ferreira.

Andre Agassi beat Albert Costa, 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 6-1, and faces a quarterfinal date Thursday against Jeff Tarango, who upset the sixth-ranked Yevgeni Kafelnikov, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

"Not bad," Agassi said. "I'm still in the event."

Steve Campbell, a 27-year-old journeyman from Detroit, became the first qualifier in Lipton history to reach the men's quarterfinals by beating Ferreira, 6-7 (3-7), 6-2, 7-5. Third-ranked Marcelo Rios, who would become No. 1 if he wins the tournament, beat Goran Ivanisevic, 6-2, 6-3.

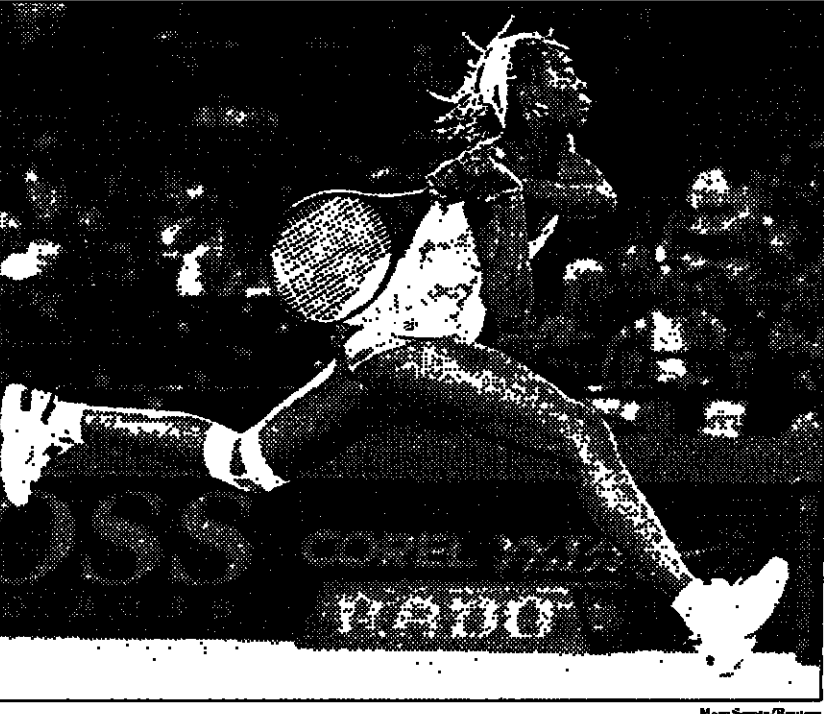
Serena Williams was a giggling, charming youngster after her earlier matches, but defeat transformed her into a sullen teen. She bristled when asked about rallying so successfully from the baseline with Hingis.

"A lot of people think that black people can't rally, and just think they're athletes and can't think," she said. "As you can see, that's not true. I can rally. Venus can rally."

With Venus watching from the players' seats, her sister shook off a slow start while Hingis became erratic and frustrated. When Hingis lost her serve to fall behind, 2-1, in the third set, she flung her racket. It skidded 40 feet into the base of the umpire's chair as the crowd of 10,000 jeered.

Hingis then rediscovered the groove in her groundstrokes, and Williams came up one point short in the first match between the two teens.

"I was pretty nervous," Hingis said. "She's going to be a tough opponent in the future."



Venus Williams chasing a volley from Silvia Farina in their quarterfinal.



FIT FOR THE JOB—Soccer referees from around the world, led by Pierluigi Collina of Italy, No. 10, running round a track in Paris on Wednesday in a test of their physical suitability for the World Cup. Sixty-seven referees and linesmen, selected for the competition, were gathered in France for two days of preparation.

U.K. Warns the World Cup Ticketless

LONDON—Britain unveiled a £1 million campaign on Wednesday aimed at deterring ticketless soccer fans from traveling to France for the World Cup. Jack Straw, the home secretary, presented two television advertisements, one featuring an English fan and the other a Scot, both in full fan's regalia, who are shown being turned away from a match after trying to get in with a ticket bought on the black market and stamped with the name "Jean Pierre Baptiste."

"The best advice we can give to supporters is 'No ticket? Don't travel,'" Straw said. "If your name is Joe Bloggs and the name on the ticket says Josephine Jospin, you won't get in."

Questioned further, however, Straw

admitted that tickets sold to British fans would not carry the buyer's name.

Straw also repeated his "anxiety" that huge television screens erected outside the arenas would be "magnets" for hooligans and fans without tickets.

"We cannot stop people from traveling," he said. "We cannot guarantee there will be no trouble. All we can do is continue with the advice."

The British and French police are sharing intelligence on known hooligans, and British soccer intelligence officers who know potential troublemakers by sight will be present at games.

More than 20 suspected English hooligans were barred from entering Switzerland for a match in Bern on

Wednesday between England and Switzerland, the British police said.

Five known soccer "criminals" were sent back from the Geneva airport and 19 other feared troublemakers were kept from boarding a flight at the Luton airport after a warning from the authorities that they would not be let in. A spokesman for the National Football Intelligence Unit, which had a number of "spotters" in Bern, said the Swiss police force was exercising its right to bar troublemakers.

Early Wednesday morning, meanwhile, the police in Sunderland, England, arrested 29 men on charges they allegedly conspired to cause disorder at soccer grounds across the country over the last three seasons, a police spokesman said.

Do-or-Die Wizards Stop the Blazers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
On the first stop of a four-game Western trip that could make or break their playoff chances, the Washington Wizards passed one test, even though Rod Strickland flunked the diplomacy exam.

Strickland was ejected, but the Wizards still beat the Portland Trail Blazers, 99-87, on Tuesday night. It was the first

NBA ROUNDOUP

stop on a trip in which the Wizards will also play Seattle, Phoenix and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Juwan Howard scored 24 points and Tracy Murray 23 as the Wizards pulled a game ahead of New Jersey and Orlando in the fight for playoff berths in the Eastern Conference.

Strickland drew two technical fouls from the referee, David Jones, for protesting a call with 2:39 left in the third quarter and the Wizards leading, 63-60.

During a timeout, Strickland stayed on the court to argue with Jones, then kept arguing even after the first technical. He still wouldn't leave after Jones threw him out, finally being persuaded to depart by two teammates, Chris Webber and Harvey Grant.

Strickland called it "one of the worst experiences with a ref I've ever had."

"I didn't say anything crazy to him,"

Strickland added. "I was just talking. As a referee, he could have handled the situation a whole lot better because I didn't say anything to disrespect him."

Murray scored five points and Howard four in a 16-2 run that gave Washington an 89-79 lead with 2:57 to play, and the Wizards outscored Portland, 26-10, in the final 7½ minutes.

Arvydas Sabonis had 14 points and 15 rebounds, but none of them came in the fourth quarter for the Blazers, losers of three in a row and 3-7 since Damon Stoudamire went down with a sprained right ankle.

Hawks 85, Magic 73 In Atlanta, Steve Smith scored 10 of his 28 points in the last 10 minutes to break open a close game, and Mookie Blaylock had 11 points, 4 steals and 3 assists in 34 minutes after missing three games because of anemia.

After the Magic closed to 73-67 with 4:30 to play, Smith hit a pair of free throws and two 3-pointers in a 12-0 run, giving the Hawks an 85-67 lead with two minutes to play.

Hornets 106, Raptors 89 Glen Rice had 24 points and 7 rebounds, and all five Charlotte starters scored in double figures as the Hornets won in Toronto, their 14th victory in 15 games.

Toronto's guards shot a combined 20 percent from the field. Dee Brown and Chauncey Billups both shot 3-for-12,

and Doug Christie was 2-for-11.

Jazz 92, Suns 73 In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 19 points, Greg Foster had 12 points and a career-high 15 rebounds, and John Stockton had 11 assists for Utah, which moved back into a tie with Seattle for the best record in the Western Conference.

After leading, 42-35, at halftime, the Jazz outscored the Suns by 13-2 in the first 5:22 of the second half, led by Stockton with five points.

Howard Easley scored six of Utah's last 10 points in the third quarter to propel the Jazz to a 71-50 lead entering the fourth.

Spurs 86, Cavaliers 85 Vinny Del Negro hit a 12-foot baseline jumper with 3.3 seconds to play, to give San Antonio victory in Cleveland.

David Robinson led the Spurs with 27 points, 10 rebounds and 8 blocked shots, and Tim Duncan had 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Bucks 118, Rockets 108 Ray Allen scored 33 points and Armon Gilliam added a season-high 29 as Milwaukee snapped a nine-game losing streak and halted visiting Houston's six-game winning streak.

Knicks 88, Warriors 75 Larry Johnson scored 23 points as New York won on the road for the first time in more than a month. Charles Oakley added 12 points for the Knicks.

Flyers Grounded Again by the Devils

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The Philadelphia Flyers may be the defending Eastern Conference champion, but this season the New Jersey Devils have dominated them.

"We took it as a challenge every time we played them," goalie Martin Brodeur said Tuesday night after the Devils beat the Flyers, 3-2, to just about wrap up their second successive Atlantic Division title. "We didn't do anything different today even though Eric Lindros is not in the lineup."

Lindros, the Flyers' highest-profile player, has been sidelined with a concussion suffered in a game March 7.

The Devils completed their season-long domination of their closest com-

petitors in the division, posting a 4-0-1 record against the Flyers and outscoring them, 18-8, in the five games.

Coyotes 4, Maple Leafs 2 In Phoenix, Teppo Numminen, Mike Stapleton and

NHL ROUNDOUP

Shane Doan scored on consecutive shots less than two minutes apart as the Coyotes beat Toronto.

Sabres 2, Flames 0 Dominik Hasek made 29 saves and Donald Audette and Curtis Brown each scored a goal to lead Buffalo to victory in Calgary.

Hasek made 13 of his 29 saves in the final 20 minutes for his league-leading 11th shutout.

Canucks 4, Islanders 3 Alex Mogilny scored twice as Vancouver spoiled Trevor Linden's homecoming with a victory over the Islanders.

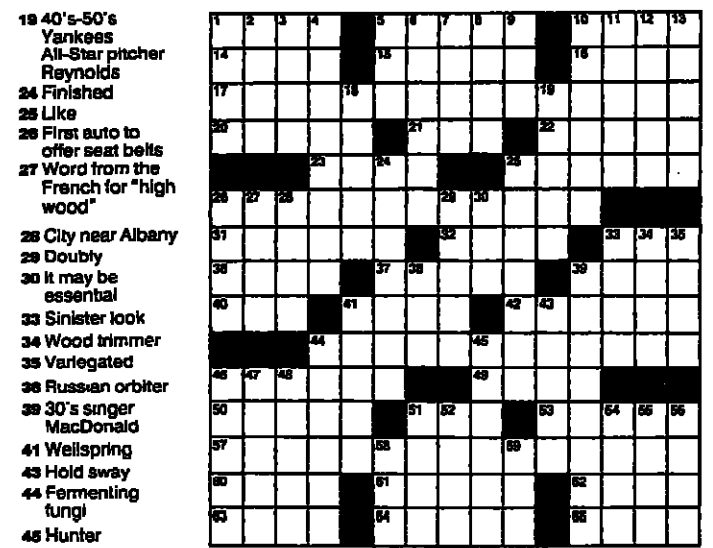
Linden, who captained the Canucks for seven seasons, was playing in Vancouver for the first time since he was traded to the Islanders on Feb. 6 for Bryan McCabe and Todd Bertuzzi.

Kings 4, Sharks 3 In San Jose, Craig Johnson's wraparound goal capped a flurry of scoring in the third period as Los Angeles beat the Sharks.

The Kings went up, 3-1, early in the third period, but the Sharks, desperately clinging to the hope of a playoff spot, fought back to tie the score at 3-3 before Johnson's goal sank San Jose.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Head-shoulder-shoulder
 - 1993 Sinatra album
 - Debatable
 - Weather map
 - Bay
 - Car developer
 - The Nativity, for one
 - Busybody
 - Expend
 - Sierra
 - 48-Down's "The Dragons of"
 - Look-alikes
 - Empty
 - clothesline's problem?
 - In Europe, say
 - Tapping target, sometimes
 - Flue residue
 - Rousseau work
 - Obi-Wan, for one
 - "Yo!"
 - S.L. protector
 - Cop's order
 - What they said to Dumbo?
 - Accumulate money (for)
 - Yeats's land
 - Like a roc



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- DOWN**
- Two-wheeled carriage
 - Pickup stick?
 - Greek-style contest
 - Searing
 - Racket
 - Like some heron
 - Ancient ally of Sparta
 - Blat holder
 - TV actor Gilliam
 - Falling star
 - Whopper topper
 - Ultraviolet Index factor
 - Hues
 - Composer
 - Boulanger
 - Directly, directionally
 - Icy
 - Is a conscientious pest?
 - Small (sense wrong)
 - Summoned, on "SP"
 - Reliable
 - Louis, Carrie and Bill
 - Dummy Mortimer
 - Big Conference
 - 40's-50's Yankees
 - All-Star pitcher
 - Raynolds
 - Finished
 - Like
 - First auto to offer seat belts
 - Word from the French for "high wood"
 - City near Albany
 - Doubly
 - It may be essential
 - Sinister look
 - Wood trimmer
 - Verfagated
 - Russian orbiter
 - 30's singer
 - MacDonald
 - Wellspring
 - Hold sway
 - Fermenting fungi
 - Hunter
 - "Cosmos" series creator
 - "Charlotte's Web" boy
 - Box of a sort
 - Corilla researcher
 - Fossey
 - Yan
 - It's spent in
 - Trent
 - Deejay Don
 - Insect repellent ingredient
 - Photo
 - Kooky

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ART BUCHWALD

Subpoena El Niño!

WASHINGTON — "Do you always have to write about the Lewinsky affair? I'm getting tired of it," thus wrote Haley Breene Huxley the other day.

I replied by telling her that she was right, and instead of dealing with an infamous scandal, I would talk about El Niño — the most important story of the year.



El Niño first came to the public's attention when it blew through the Whitewater housing development in Arkansas. This bankrupted a bank outside Little Rock and half of a law firm.

The governor of Arkansas, whose concern was with acts of God, called in several deputy sheriffs, who had dealt with El Niño disasters before.

Famous Horrors To Go on Display

LONDON — Frankenstein's eyeballs and Dracula's fangs are among 500 relics of British horror films bought by a Bradford, England, museum with a lottery grant.

Many of the items were used by Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee in Hammer horror films from the 1950s to 1970s, among them a gruesome mask worn by Lee in the "Curse of Frankenstein" in 1957 and the fangs he wore to play Dracula in 1958.

The Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford bought the collection with a grant of £95,000 (\$160,000) from proceeds of the national lottery.

He also called in a flood damage expert named Paula Jones to discuss what could be done to turn El Niño in a different direction.

Unfortunately, they met alone in a hotel, and Paula said El Niño was hardly discussed.

Then the governor was elected president, and a special prosecutor was appointed to find out why there was so much warm water in the Pacific Ocean.

At this point in time, a White House intern, who had majored in freezing weather, told her best friend that she and the president spent all their time talking about El Niño.

The friend taped everything the intern said, including the reports of a weird storm system over Alaska.

She took her tapes to the special prosecutor, who was trying to find out how much water El Niño was dumping on Los Angeles.

But the prosecutor needed confirmation before he could charge the president with lying about the high tides and misdemeanors.

Apparently one other woman knew about the president's role because she had gone to see him about a job.

When she raised the question about the cold masses of air coming into Canada and meeting the warm winds from El Niño, the president grabbed her and said, "The country salutes you." It was "60 Minutes" finest hour.

The question now is, has El Niño hurt the president? His pollsters say it hasn't. His job is to make sure the weather does no harm to the people.

And if he does it right, no one can impeach him.

The Vanishing Western Heritage of Shanghai

By Chris Poynter

SHANGHAI — Tess Johnston is standing on a street corner in Shanghai scanning a photocopy of a 1930s map of the city as maroon taxis whiz past, blowing her silver hair in all directions and curling the edges of the crinkled paper.

"I wonder if it's still there," she said, pointing to a small alley across the way, where, according to the map, a cluster of French-style villas was built by foreigners earlier this century. "I bet they've torn it down. I bet they have."

Johnston, a retired American diplomat, has spent the last nine years prowling the city's alleys in search of old Western architecture before it is torn down and replaced with skyscrapers of reflective glass and faux marble — "trash," she calls them.

Johnston, along with the Chinese photographer Deke Erh, is out to save the Western buildings that remain. She doesn't use pickets and protests — stuff like that is rather discouraged in China — but relies on paper and pictures. The two have published a series of five books on Western architecture in China called "Lost Empires." Five more are planned or in the works.

As China has opened to the world, welcoming everything from McDonald's to Microsoft, the country has exploded with construction. In its path, many of the grand old structures — built by foreigners before the Communists took power in 1949 — have become nothing more than grimy reminders of a time some would rather forget, a time when it seemed China was run by everyone but the Chinese.

One day, Johnston says, the country will regret that it let some of its heritage vanish as quickly as ice cubes in summer.

It has already happened in Hong Kong, where the move to preserve the past came a bit too late. "China is making the same mistakes," Johnston said in her Shanghai apartment, which is filled with so many books, magazines and journals on Chinese culture that they fill the bookshelves and spill onto the sofa and chairs. "What we learn from history is that we don't learn from history."

When businessmen and missionaries came to China in the 1800s and early 1900s, they brought along their lifestyles, customs, food and architecture. Nowhere is this more evident than in Shanghai, where foreigners of that era lived in different sections of the city, each with its own police force, its own laws and distinct architectural style down to the lampposts.

When the Communists seized power in 1949, the foreigners fled, leaving behind their fortresses of crowning domes, hand-carved stained-glass windows and sweeping staircases. The Chinese inherited them simply by moving in

and dividing single-family homes into housing for 10, 20 or even 30 families.

The city is once again bustling with foreign investment and rebuilding itself into a cultural, artistic and business and trade center. Local people like to boast, true or not, that one-eighth of the world's cranes are working in the city day and night. Johnston isn't impressed, however, and she certainly doesn't mince words about what she thinks of the new buildings: "Ugly, ugly, ugly. I definitely like the past. It's that simple."

She isn't the only who feels a legacy is slipping away. "It's really a pity what is happening in Shanghai," says

front door had been replaced by glass with a frosted floral design. "This building is very unique, very nice," she says. "Then they have to put this trash here."

Her fascination with China's old architecture began when she arrived here in the early 1980s to work for the U.S. Consulate General. The native of Charlottesville, Virginia, had already served in diplomatic posts in Vietnam, Paris and Laos and other places across the globe — tours of duty that taught her to speak both German and Chinese with a southern drawl that she never lost. "I said, 'Look at all this. I've got to read about it.' But there was zero, zip, not a single book about Western architecture in Shanghai."

Johnston eventually went to work in Paris. But she longed to return to Shanghai, and in 1989 — while other diplomats were wary of coming to China in light of the massacre of demonstrators near Tiananmen Square — she got her chance.

On her second Shanghai round, she met Erh, a former photographer for a Chinese government magazine, and their project to document Shanghai began. It quickly expanded to include all of China.

Johnston retired from the diplomatic life in 1996 and is spending her last two years in Shanghai finishing what she started.

Her partnership with Erh has been a perfect fit. He grew up in the 1960s during the Cultural Revolution — a turbulent 10 years when religion was prohibited, art was destroyed and schools were closed. His family lived in the French Concession and he spent his days exploring the neighborhood. At 7 he discovered the beauty of the architecture, he says, and his passion to save it was planted.

It's pretty terrible for a society to have a blank in part of its history, where everything is new and modern," he said. "Many Shanghai people like what is happening in the city now with all the progress and new buildings. But it's meaningful for them to know the past, too."

When he's not working with Johnston, Erh travels to other parts of China photographing architecture. He also traverses the globe learning how other countries preserve their historic buildings, and he plans a series of photo exhibitions later this year.

He hopes to change attitudes, but he'll have to change them fast. As Johnston pointed out, construction companies can destroy buildings about as fast as she and Erh can document them.

All is not lost, though. A few years ago, Shanghai city officials designated about 250 buildings as protected sites.

For Johnston, though, the victories will come in the future. "Maybe people will look at our books one day and say, 'So that's what China looked like. I wonder who Tess Johnston and Deke Erh were.'"

Chris Poynter is an American journalist living in China.



Tess Johnston at a mansion in central Shanghai built by a British importer.

Liu Bingkun, a Shanghai native who joins Johnston twice a week to wander around the French Concession discovering what is left.

Liu, who is writing his thesis on old architecture, said that while other countries have preservation movements, China tends to destroy its past to signal a change in government.

"It's a tradition," he says. "When Mao Zedong took power he burned most of Beijing except for the Forbidden City. Many of the old structures were also made of wood. That's why China has 5,000 years of history but few buildings to show for it."

On an unusually sunny and clear winter morning, Liu and Johnston visited several houses that belonged to a British businessman who spent the 1930s importing and exporting everything from opium to clothing. The estate is being turned into a housing complex. Some of the old structures remain, such as a red brick building that has a plastic "budweiser" awning sticking out of its side.

Johnston paused at one building to marvel at an original stained-glass window. Seconds later, she noticed that the

PEOPLE



Award winner Penelope Fitzgerald.

IN a year when seemingly every major U.S. writer was attempting the great American novel, the National Book Critics Circle gave top honors to a British author. In a surprise choice, the Circle gave Penelope Fitzgerald its 21st annual fiction prize. The 81-year-old Fitzgerald, cited for the historical novel "The Blue Flower," became eligible this year when the NBCC voted to allow non-U.S. citizens to compete. Fitzgerald's competition included some of the most acclaimed American fiction of 1997: "American Pastoral" by Philip Roth; "Underworld" by Don DeLillo; and "Cold Mountain" by Charles Frazier, which was both an unexpected best-seller and the winner last fall of the National Book Award. Fitzgerald, a critic for decades, was in her 60s before she started publishing fiction. Several of her books have been nominated for Britain's Booker Prize and "Offshore" won it in 1979. The Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa received the criticism prize for "Mak-ing Waves," and James Tobin, author of "Emie Pyle's War: America's Eye-

witness to World War II," won for biography and autobiography. The general nonfiction prize went to Anne Fadiman for "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down," and Charles Wright's "Black Zodiac" was the poetry winner. Charlotte Bacon has been named this year's winner of the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, given annually for a distinguished first book of fiction, for "A Private State." The award was established by Mary Hemingway, a member of PEN.

Gene Autry, the singing cowboy who brought major league baseball to Anaheim, California, is getting a bronze statue in his honor at his California Angels' stadium. The statue depicts him wearing a bolo tie and cowboy boots and carrying a Stetson — as a businessman after he retired from making movies. Autry, 90, brought the Angels to the then new stadium in 1966.

British family organizations and a film

industry watchdog have protested British censors' decision to clear Adrian Lyne's film version of Vladimir Nabokov's novel "Invitation for a Beheading" in May. The British Board of Film Classification was accused of glamorizing and normalizing pedophilia, and the family groups say the clearance is a possible violation of the Protection of Children Act. The film, which stars Jeremy Irons and Dominique Swain, tells of a man's obsession with a girl. It is restricted to viewers over 18. The film has not found a distributor in the United States.

A collection of letters, manuscripts and other documents stretching across seven centuries and including items associated with Stan Laurel, George Gershwin, Ernest Hemingway, Napoleon, Thomas Edison and Shirley Temple is going under the auctioneer's hammer at Sotheby's in London on Tuesday. The collection was compiled by the filmmaker George Pan Cosmatos, best known for "Rambo: First Blood II." Cosmatos said he began col-

lecting 30 years ago when friends gave him a book signed by the director Frank Capra, but decided to sell after the death of his wife.

Earl Spencer, brother of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, visited a workshop in Phnom Penh on Wednesday, where some of the country's thousands of land mine victims receive artificial limbs. Diana wanted to visit Cambodia last year as part of her crusade against land mines but was unable to because of security concerns. "I feel I would have performed some unwritten obligation to Diana by coming here," Spencer said.

Salman Rushdie is expected in the city of Tromsø, Norway, this weekend to accept an honorary doctorate. The university will also honor Rushdie's Norwegian-language publisher, William Nygaard, who was shot and wounded in Oslo in 1992 after he published Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses."

'Titanic' Music: The Sequel, Already

Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood plans to have the Oscar-winning music of "Titanic," including its hit single, "My Heart Will Go On," live on and on, with a sequel album and a concert tour.

"I've promised a second album. I've promised to write a 25-minute, 30-minute sort of piece that incorporates the themes, some of the music that wasn't on the first album," said the composer James Horner, who picked up Oscars for best dramatic score and best original song.

And for those who haven't had enough of the film's swelling music, a concert tour featuring the score will be launched around the end of the summer. "I'm going to be doing probably five or six concerts sometime this summer or September, in time for when the videocassette of the movie comes out," Horner said.



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Czech Republic	00-42-000-101	Israel	177-100-7277	Sweden	020-795-61
Egypt (Cairo)	510-0200	Italy	172-1011	Switzerland	0800-89-001
France	0-800-99-0011	Netherlands	0800-022-9111	United Kingdom	0500-89-001
Germany	0130-0010	Russia (Moscow)	755-5042	United Kingdom	0800-89-001

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World's Daily News

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